

Flight chaos will continue 'for years'

CAA 'caught on the hop' by huge demand increase

By Michael Horsnell and Boris Johnson

A warning that holiday-makers should expect flight chaos for years to come was issued by the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday as hundreds abandoned their holidays and went home after airport delays of up to 48 hours.

The authority said flight congestion was like a traffic jam on the M25 and predicted it would take years before European air traffic controllers could cope with the staggering increase in flights by introducing new management schemes.

More than 150,000 people who are due to take off for the sun this weekend were told to

check in as normal but be prepared for more delays.

Meanwhile the Association of British Travel Agents said those who had abandoned holidays after delays of more than 24 hours should receive a full refund if they had bought adequate insurance cover through the main operators.

Thousands continued to jam airports and tempers flared in overheated departure lounges throughout the country as the British Airports Authority disclosed that its

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seven airports handled 6,400,000 passengers in June, an increase of 6.6 per cent on the same month last year.

Sir Norman Payne, chairman of the BAA airports group, told shareholders at the company's annual meeting it was vital that airlines, airports, tour operators and government meet urgently to plan better how to cope with congestion problems next summer.

"There is not a tremendous amount we can do this summer," he said. Sir Norman blamed the present problem on "difficulties" with the ATC control of various Mediterranean countries, naming also Turkey, Italy and France "to some extent", and "Spain spasmodically".

It had developed to the present situation, he felt, because of previously insufficient investment and lack of co-ordination now "between country to country".

There seemed little alternative to keeping waiting passengers checked in and close at hand at the airport - even though it might involve a long wait.

"As we have found on the flights to Greece for example, an airline operator gets half an hour's notice he has got a slot," he said.

Airport managers, recovering from the effects of the Greek air controllers' dispute were, meanwhile, waiting anxiously to see if threatened industrial action by Spanish and French controllers causes

further flight chaos next week. Continuing delays were due to aircraft and crews being in the wrong place after the Greek dispute, or pilots having used up their duty hours.

A spokesman for the CAA said: "Suddenly people found they had more money to spend on holidays abroad and they all wanted to head for the sun. We were all caught on the hop throughout Europe trying to deal with the huge increase in flights."

The CAA warning came after passengers spent another night crowded into airport departure lounges.

A spokesman at Manchester airport said: "There have been a few people who have given up and gone home."

Airport police were called when angry Tenerife-bound holiday-makers found the waiting too much and threatened airline staff.

At Gatwick up to a thousand holiday-makers were stranded overnight and further serious delays were forecast.

At Luton, where three-quarters of flight were delayed, some up to 33 hours, there was no prospect of clearing the backlog until early next week.

Luton, currently celebrating its golden jubilee, was the arena for a seaway contest between the stiff British upper lip and the Anglo-Saxon expletive.

By late yesterday, the stiff upper lip was winning but until Britannia Airways flights 172A and 023A took off, respectively 33 and 25 hours late, it was a close-run thing.

Flight 172A, due to leave Luton for Heraklion, Crete, at 7.15am on Thursday, finally began boarding around 2.30pm yesterday, complete with whoops of delight from passengers - and praise for Thomson Holidays, the charter operators, who had accommodated most of its 260 clients overnight in some of the priciest hotels in the area.

Mr Antonio Soler, a spokesman for the air traffic controllers at Palma airport in Majorca, where 200,000 passengers are expected to fly in and out at the weekend, said that his colleagues were unable to cope with the volume of traffic.

One traveller finds peace



Solitude: Pope John Paul walking in the Italian Dolomites near the Austrian border, where he is believed to be preparing a Papal document on the role of women in the church.

Oil giants face threat of petrol price inquiry

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Britain's leading oil companies are almost certain to face a full-scale investigation of their petrol pricing policies by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

An all-party committee of MPs has concluded a thorough investigation of the petrol industry and found scant evidence of genuine price competition between the main companies, led by Shell, Esso and BP.

The Trade and Industry select committee is to publish a report the week after next in which it will call on the Office of Fair Trading to investigate. If the OFT agrees that there is a case to answer, then a referral to the Monopolies Commission is almost certain.

The last such investigation of the industry by the commission was in 1979. This concluded that a monopoly existed, but that at that time it was not acting against the public interest. However, it asked the OFT to monitor the situation.

In evidence to the committee in April, Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the OFT, gave a clear hint that he was ready to call in the Monopolies Commission. He admitted that the leading oil companies "did not compete hard on price" and said the control exerted by the companies on petrol stations and their pricing levels came "very close" to illegal retail price maintenance. He said he would be examining the committee's findings "with a view to a reference of the petrol industry to the Monopolies Commission".

The committee, chaired by the Conservative MP Mr Kenneth Warren, began what it believed would be a brief inquiry at the beginning of this

year, but unearthed more and more disturbing facts. Their report is likely to point out that for several years the oil companies have preserved almost unchanged shares of petrol sales, in all cases just under the 20 per cent figure that would automatically trigger a Monopolies Commission inquiry.

The MPs will not suggest that the companies operate a cartel, but will point out that when one company raises its petrol price the others invariably follow suit, and that pump prices lag behind world oil price changes.

The report will say that the one "mini-major" that is competing to increase its market share is Jet, which is able to sell its petrol at a price a penny a gallon below that of all the main companies.

When Sir Gordon appeared before the committee, the MPs alleged that the companies had "curved up" the market between them and accused him of complacency. In the course of its inquiry the committee learnt that the leading companies regularly supplied petrol to each others' stations to save on delivery costs.

The committee is also likely to investigate past advertising campaigns by the companies which suggested that their petrol was unique, when in fact each was selling the others' brands.

One consequence of the leading companies' reluctance to increase their market shares is that they withdraw from rural areas which are costly to supply, and concentrate on the more profitable urban areas.

In the course of its inquiry the committee took evidence from the Petrol Retailers' Association, which has 7,000 white collar workers in the company.

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Portfolio

PLUS NEW

Accumulator

Two people shared the daily prize yesterday (see page 3) but there is a chance today to win the weekly prize of £8,000, and the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £122,000.

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INSIDE

Base rates set to rise

Base rates are set to rise to 11 per cent next week, forcing the building societies to lift mortgage rates as high as 12 per cent, in response to inflationary pressures.

The rate of inflation rose to 4.6 per cent in June, the highest for two-and-a-half years and the fourth successive monthly increase.

Pressure on base rates also intensified as a result of a sharp fall in sterling after better-than-expected US trade figures. The pound fell by 2.75 cents to \$1.6625. Page 25.

Price leads

Nick Price of Zimbabwe led by one shot from Seve Ballesteros at the halfway stage of the Open golf championship after shooting a second-round 67. Page 39, 40.

Village Voice

What happens when a new road opens a small Himalayan mountain village to the outside world? Victor Zorza and Venu Sandal record the challenge it posed. Page 9.

Exam results

Degrees awarded by the universities of Liverpool and Reading will be published on Monday. Results from the University of Strathclyde appear today. Page 35.

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Oil experts blame lack of pipe tests for tragedy

By Tony Dawe

As five Piper Alpha oil wells continued burning out of control last night, *Times* inquiries revealed that gas pipes which may never have been inspected during the rig's 12 years could be to blame for the disaster that killed 166 men.

A new line of inquiry being pursued by government investigators is that a massive rupture of a pipe containing gas under pressure started the chain of explosions which ended with a huge blast in Piper Alpha's gas compression module 10 days ago.

Oil industry experts have

told *The Times* that testing every inch of the miles of pipe aboard the rig was too costly, and time-consuming - though the risk of failure increased with every day of use.

A technical inquiry, set up by the Government, will at

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tempt to discover whether metal fatigue, corrosion or, as the latest theory suggests, internal erosion caused by pressurized pellets of liquid hitting the insides of the pipes like bullets, led to the fracture.

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Unions plan talks on Rover job fears

By Craig Seton and Daniel Ward

Union leaders representing the Rover Group's 46,000 workforce are to meet Mr Graham Day, the company's chairman, in London on Monday when they will demand to know more about future plans under British Aerospace ownership.

The meeting was arranged amid growing unease among union leaders and some sections of the workforce, notably at the Cowley plant in Oxford, that the company's venture into the private sector could mean job losses.

Anxiety was increased by reports that the company would become a more special-

ist car maker and that cuts in capacity would lead to redundancies.

The union leaders want assurances about jobs and a firm commitment to Rover remaining a volume car manufacturer.

Mr Day is due to meet national motor industry officials of several big unions, including the Transport and General Workers, the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Manufacturing Science Finance (MSF) union, which has 7,000 white collar workers in the company.

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Government dumping Ulster 'millstones'

Short Brothers to go on sale

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The state-owned Short Brothers aircraft company in Northern Ireland is to be offered for sale in the latest of a series of moves by the Government, which is determined to rid itself of the province's loss-making industries.

An announcement of the sale of Shorts, which is the province's largest manufacturing employer, is expected next week when it will be made clear that the Government will welcome offers for either the whole company or any of its three divisions.

The move by the Government follows yesterday's announcement of plans to privatize Northern Ireland electricity and the decision to offer another loss-making, state-owned company, Harland and Wolff, to the millionaire Indian shipowner, Mr Ravi Tikkoo.

Tentative approaches have been made for Short Brothers, which employs 7,600 workers.

There is confidence that buyers could be found for the profitable missile division which manufactures the Blow Pipe and Javelin weapons and is engaged in developing the Star Sreak on a Ministry of Defence development and production contract.

It is also hoped that the aero structure division, which makes a range of products such as wing sets, undercarriage doors and underflaps for a number of airline companies including Boeing and Fokker, will prove attractive.

But the prospects for selling the unprofitable aircraft division are much gloomier and there are fears ministers would be prepared to let this division close with the loss of 3,000 jobs.

The division, which makes the SD-360 commuter aircraft and Tucano trainer aircraft for the RAF, is presently having discussions with Dornier, a West German aerospace firm,

with a view to forming a partnership to develop the 44-seat FTX twin jet regional airliner for the 1990s.

Ministers and officials are exasperated with the air of unreality that exists at Shorts, where losses are likely to be almost £130 million when the accounts for 1987/1988 are published. In 1986/1987 the company lost £20 million and £37 million in 1985/1986, having made a profit of £500,000 in 1984/1985.

The Government believes that as long as the company is state-owned there is no prospect of it facing up to its problems.

"The gap between reality and expectations at the company is quite astonishing. The bubble of complacency must be burst. You have got a heavy and growing financial burden with a management that leaves a lot to be desired," the source said.

referred to. We should call each other by our real names."

But Tory MPs led by Sir Bernard Braine, the Father of the House, immediately denounced the Labour idea as "claptrap" and dismissed its proponents as "crackpots". He argued that without such courtesies civilized debate in the House would disappear.

However, the matter is unlikely to rest there. The dispute is likely to move to the procedure committee of the House, which is about to commence an exhaustive inquiry into how the ancient ways and traditions should be modernized so that viewers can readily understand what is happening when the television cameras are admitted next year.

"Our committee is looking at all

aspects of procedure that will be seen in the House and obviously forms of address must be an aspect of that procedure," conceded Sir Peter Emery, the Conservative chairman of the committee.

"The committee will obviously consider the matter fully. There are some people who feel there may be a need for alteration but there are many people who feel that the House should not alter for television and if the public is to see us, it should see us wars and all," Sir Peter said.

But Sir Bernard was adamant that the Labour moves will find no favour with the overwhelming majority of members.

The forms of address are many and

various. Members of the same party are "honourable friends" whilst opponents are "honourable gentlemen".

Privy councillors are "right honourable" friends or gentlemen. QCs are "honourable and learned". Those with distinguished military service are "honourable and gallant".

Sir Bernard, in defending the tradition, said: "These forms of address are designed to help orderly debate. How else would you do it? Would you start with 'old cock' if you were being friendly and 'the reptile who has just addressed the House' if not?"

"There has to be a framework of behaviour within which ideas can be exchanged. Ours has been the model for orderly debate the world over," Sir Bernard said.

TO BE THE BEST THE NO1 BESTSELLER READ THE BEST THIS SUMMER

GRAFTON BOOKS

BARBARA TAYLOR BRADFORD



TO BE THE BEST THE NO1 BESTSELLER READ THE BEST THIS SUMMER

GRAFTON BOOKS

NEWS ROUNDUP

Plutonium leak inquiry launched

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday ordered an urgent inquiry into how a sealed canister containing plutonium, the most dangerous substance handled by the nuclear industry, was found on a beach at Drigg, Cumbria.

The canister was found by contractors excavating a new trench for waste coming from Sellafield, thought to have been filled and sealed in the early 70s. The site was evacuated, as only a small trace of plutonium can cause cancer. Last night scientists at Sellafield, the nuclear reprocessing plant seven miles away, were trying to ascertain just how much of the substance was in the container, which is being held in a sealed laboratory.

British Nuclear Fuels Limited, who operate Sellafield, said they had still not located the records for the plutonium. Mr Parkinson said that the joint Health and Safety Executive and the Inspectorate of Pollution report would be made public.

Police bomb alarm

Midlands police are checking for links between an explosive device found near a police station yesterday and four similar alerts. Earlier a caller to Beacon Radio in Birmingham said a bomb had been left at the police station. The device was found under a blue probation service van in a car park at Walsall police station, West Midlands. Police said the device was in a blue and red holdall which cracked and smoked when touched. No was hurt. Army bomb disposal experts made the device safe.

Health screening plan

A private health insurance company is planning to set up a health screening centre on a National Health Service hospital site. Private Patients Plan, Britain's second largest health insurance firm is negotiating a deal with Central Manchester health authority under which it will rent space in the private patient's block at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. However the laboratory staff union has opposed the deal because it fears that the joint venture will lead to queue jumping in the backlog for processing NHS cervical smears.

US general sentenced

A United States general based at a communications base in North Yorkshire who caused the death of a girl by reckless driving was yesterday given a six-month jail sentence, suspended for two years. At York Crown Court General Mario Cartagena, aged 46, based at Menwith Hill, was also banned from driving in Britain for five years. He admitted causing the death of Miss Sara Danielle Willis, aged 16, of Pately Bridge, North Yorkshire.

Homes 'race bias'

The Commission for Racial Equality expects to report in the autumn on allegations that a property developer in Leicester attempted to prevent black people from buying on a new housing estate. An investigation has been in progress since the end of last year into the allegation that the developer was withholding information about the scheme from potential black purchasers, but the commission said yesterday that it was not naming anyone at this stage. Mr Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East, said yesterday that he was very concerned.

Gunman quizzed

A man with a rifle was arrested outside the Central Criminal Court yesterday afternoon. Chief Inspector John Ellis, head of court security, said: "Police are still questioning the alleged gunman. He was armed with an old shotgun which he claimed he bought at a market. We have not ascertained whether there is a connection with any of the cases going on."

Russians paying with fish for ship repairs

A Hull company is accepting a \$300,000 consignment of fish in part payment for work on a Russian ship, because of the Soviet Union's shortage of foreign currency.

Repairs to the 16,000 tonne Russian vessel, Trudovaya Slava, will be carried on the Humber. The ship is now at Riga on the Baltic coast.

Mr Nick Bowen, who negotiated the deal for J. Marr Seafoods said last night that although he had transacted exchanges of fish for fish, he had never been offered fish in exchange for repairs.

"This is an extension of the

over the side' trade we've been carrying on with the Soviets for a number of years", he explained. "This time we are dealing in repairs instead of fish. Usually British and Irish fishermen supply Soviet countries with excess mackerel and herring surplus to the British market."

"These fish are then sold by the company to pay the British fishermen."

"The only difference this time is we will be paying the company, Globe Engineering of Hull, who are carrying out the work on the Russian ship, instead of fishermen."

Government dilemma on IRA inquest

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The dilemma over whether to send seven SAS men to the Gibraltar inquest into the shooting of three IRA terrorists in March is causing confusion and doubt among senior Government ministers, Whitehall officials and the military.

Ministers have said that the decision lies with the SAS men themselves.

But this "hands-off" approach is disingenuous as the ultimate decision lies with the Government, senior Whitehall sources emphasized.

Ministers have said they would like the men to appear because it is felt that if they give their evidence in person and stand up to cross examination, the jury is more likely to return a verdict of "lawful killing".

Of course, if the SAS men decide they cannot go for personal security reasons, there will be no question of

forcing them. The seven men are themselves divided on the issue.

However, even if the soldiers are prepared to appear as witnesses at the inquest in September, ministers still have to consider the long-term risk factors. If the risks are considered too great, the Government could overrule a decision by the SAS men to go to Gibraltar.

Although the final decision will be made by the Prime Minister, Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, the Northern Ireland Office and the Home Office also have a say. Mr Tom King, the Northern Ireland Secretary, for example, is concerned about the impact the inquest will have on relations with the Irish Republic.

The dilemma is illustrated by the way Government and Whitehall sources have responded to the ruling by Mr Felix Fizzarello, the Gibraltar

coroner, that the SAS men should be exposed, not just to him - the condition stipulated by the Government lawyers - but also to the jury and the lawyers acting for the families of the dead terrorists.

It is understood that Mr Younger's first reaction was that the SAS men could not possibly attend the inquest under such conditions. But he has begun to change his mind.

Apart from the personal safety of the SAS men, there is one overriding issue at stake - the verdict at the inquest. Whatever the SAS decide, the Government will have to weigh up the following questions: is the jury likely to reach a verdict of "lawful killing" on the basis of the written evidence; is there a serious risk of an "open verdict" and, if so, is it more likely if the SAS men fail to appear in person at the hearing?

An open verdict is bound to be greeted with dismay both by the

Government and the SAS, since it would leave the whole Gibraltar operation in the air; is there a serious risk of a verdict of "unlawful killing", and will the presence of the SAS men in the witness box tip the balance in their favour? And if it is felt that the personal risks are too great for the men to appear and the verdict is an open one, does this oblige the Government to hold its own judicial inquiry in this country?

The suggestion that the SAS men could wear discreetly applied but effective make-up to disguise their faces is considered a possible option. However there are some senior officials who feel this is a rather distasteful compromise, and the coroner would have to give his permission to such a scheme.

Whitehall sources said yesterday that they expect the Government's decision before Parliament goes into recess at the end of this month.

Election leaves Labour at odds

By Richard Ford
and Philip Webster

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday blamed the left-wing challengers for the party leadership for Labour's failure to win the Kensington by-election.

As the Conservatives celebrated the success of their candidate, Mr Dudley Fishburn, in holding the marginal west London seat with a majority cut from 4,447 to 815, the infighting that has dogged Labour erupted again.

Mr Kinnock, continuing his southern African tour in Mozambique, denied that his own handling of the defence policy in recent weeks had made the difference between Labour losing the contest and gaining a sensational victory.

He claimed that Labour was now level pegging with the Tories and that the recent trouble over defence was a "blip and nothing like a trend". He added that the

KENSINGTON

Dudley Fishburn (C)	9,829
Ann Holmes (Lab)	9,014
William Goodhart (SLD)	2,546
John Martin (SDP)	1,180
Phyllis Hobson (Greens)	572
John Connell (Stop ITN)	20
John Crowley (Anti-Yuppies)	24
John Deignan (London Class War)	20
Ray Edey (Anti-War)	20
Bryan Gooder (Anti-Left)	31
Brian McDermott (Free Trade Lab)	31
Corinna Payne (Payne & Pearsall)	193
Wm. Stools (Labour)	27
Lord David Sulch (Monaster Fleming Loony)	6
Dr Kaijisti Trivedi (Independent Jamaica)	6
One majority	815
Total vote 23,893	Turnout 81.0%

1987: Sir B. R. Williams (C) 14,818; B. T. Bousquet (Lab) 10,371; W. H. Goodhart (SLD) 5,370; R. E. Shorrock (Greens) 2,528; Miss C. Carter (Humanist) 65; Mrs P. M. Hughes (PIP) 30. Total vote: 31,191 (84.7%). C majority: 4,447 (14.3%).

distractions of party elections gave the public the impression that Labour was more concerned about its internal affairs than those of the country.

However, within hours of his comments being known in London, the differences between the leadership and the hard left opened up. Mr Eric Heffer, a challenger for the deputy leadership, said the argument did not "hold water" and added: "The party all rallied at the general election - there was no leadership election then - yet Labour lost."

The Government, meanwhile, was delighted to win its first parliamentary test since the general election, particularly after a Commons session in which its most radical proposals have been introduced. It believes that if Labour was a formidable opponent the party should have been able to take the marginal seat.

On the flight to Heathrow Mrs Palmer-Tompkinson, her legs propped in front of her, told reporters that she expected to return to Davos Hospital to have her progress monitored by the team of orthopaedic surgeons, led by Professor Peter Matter, of his party.

By Alan Hamilton

Mrs Patti Palmer-Tompkinson returned to her home at Dummer, Hampshire, yesterday, after more than four months in a Swiss hospital being treated for serious leg injuries sustained when an avalanche hit the Prince of Wales's skiing party at Klosters in March.

The avalanche killed Major E. Lindsay, a former equerry to the Queen. Mrs Palmer-Tompkinson was buried in the snow, but was rescued by the Prince and other members of his party.

North Sea safety review urged after helicopter ditches

By David Sapstead

Sixteen offshore oil workers and two crew members were rescued from the North Sea yesterday afternoon after their helicopter was forced to ditch in the sea.

A Norwegian Air Force rescue helicopter picked up all 18 men, two of whom were British, 35 minutes after the Aerospatiale Super Puma chartered to BP had ditched in the sea 71 miles south-west of Stavanger.

This was the second such incident in less than 72 hours. On Wednesday, 21 oilmen and crew aboard a Sikorsky S61 were rescued by a coast-guard helicopter off the Shetlands after an engine fire.

The latest incident, coming hard on the heels of the Piper Alpha tragedy, immediately brought renewed calls by union leaders in Aberdeen for improved safety standards in the North Sea.

The inter-union offshore committee said: "This is just the latest in a whole string of recent incidents that illustrate the dangers of offshore work and the need for a complete revision of safety standards."

None of the men involved in yesterday's incident was hurt. They were travelling from BP's Ula field to Stavanger on a flight operated by the Norwegian firm Heli-Service when the Super Puma developed engine trouble.

The Norwegian coastguard service said: "A Sea King rescue helicopter was above Stavanger on exercises at the time and we were able to send it immediately to the scene of the incident."

BP has set up an inquiry into the incident and the passengers and crew were expected to be interviewed by Norwegian government inspectors last night.

A German fishing vessel later secured a line to the helicopter and began towing it towards Stavanger.

Meanwhile, oil workers in Aberdeen yesterday made a plea to the Government for the immediate issue of death certificates on the 140 men still missing after last week's

The Glo-Mar Labrador gas rig, off the Humberhead coast, was evacuated in high winds early yesterday. Two helicopters from Great Yarmouth lifted 21 crew members to safety. The rig, owned by Amoco, was hit by a tanker a month ago and one of its support legs was weakened. Instructions were then given for it to be cleared in the event of dangerous weather. Later, 150 men who walked off a rig in the West Sole Field the day after the Piper Alpha disaster started to fly back to their rig. Mr Keith Gibson, the men's union spokesman, said BP had agreed to union recognition and a full safety review. In Hull, the funerals for two of the Piper Alpha victims were held.

Piper Alpha disaster. An emergency meeting of the inter-union offshore committee also called on Occidental UK, operators of the ill-fated platform, to make the recovery of the bodies its top priority regardless of cost.

So far, only 26 bodies have been recovered. Mr Roger Spiller, offshore organizer for the Manufacturing, Science and Financial Union in the southern sector of the North Sea, said the delays in issuing death certificates for the other 140 were causing additional problems to families already shattered by grief.

He said: "Life insurance claims and various other things are being held up because families cannot get death certificates. Yet we know where, when and how these men died and we are calling on the Government to get the certificates issued as a matter of urgency."

Mr Spiller said the unions also feared the company might, on cost grounds, slow down the operation to recover the remaining bodies, though this was firmly denied by Occidental.

The company said its chief executive, Mr John Brading, had made recovery of the dead the over-riding priority. The operation to make the still-

burning platform safe was an essential first step before divers could be sent down to the wreckage on the sea bed, where most of the bodies are believed to be trapped.

Yesterday's inter-union meeting also agreed to write to Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, in support of the demands made in London on Thursday by leaders of unions with workers in the offshore industry.

Those demands included the extension of the Health and Safety at Work Act to the North Sea and immediate publication of the 1984 report on the previous explosion on Piper Alpha.

The union meeting also called on the oil companies to extend their death-in-service insurance benefits to all men working offshore, even if they were employed by contractors.

This followed the disclosure that while Occidental's 37 staff on Piper Alpha were covered by an amount up to five times their normal salary, the other 191 on the rig had much lower cover, because they worked for contractors.

Winds gusting to 45 miles an hour prevented Mr Rod Adair's fire-fighting team from boarding the wreckage of the Piper Alpha oil platform yesterday. Occidental said work on the platform was so dependent on the weather that it was impossible to estimate when the still-burning wells might be capped.

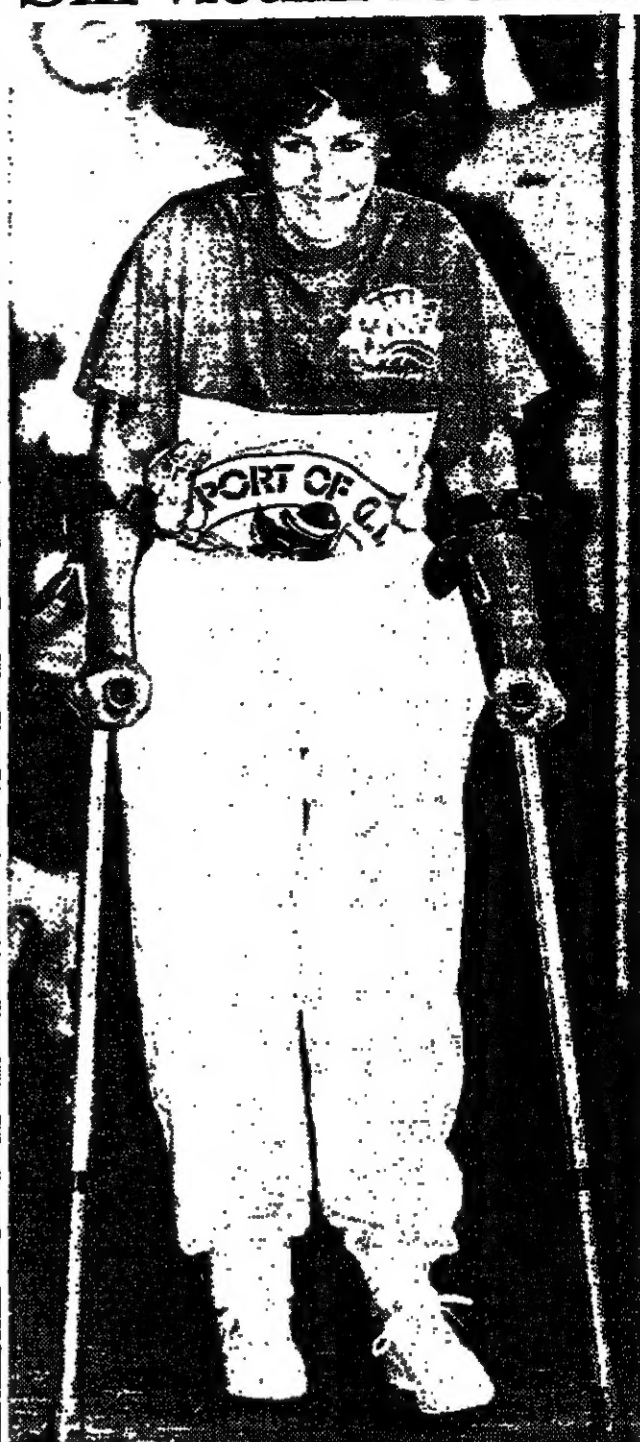
The drilling of the first relief well - necessary to plug the flow of oil in case Mr Adair's efforts fail - was continuing close to the ill-fated rig.

A second drilling vessel was also in position last night ready to begin the drilling of a second well.

One of the men injured in the tragedy was released from hospital yesterday leaving ten of the survivors still in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, all suffering from burns.

The widow of David Henderson, one of 166 men to die on the rig last week, gave birth to a baby girl in Aberdeen on Thursday, it was revealed yesterday.

Ski victim returns



Mrs Patti Palmer-Tompkinson leaving hospital yesterday.

Police find IRA heavy machine gun

By Paul Vallely

Police in the Irish Republic police yesterday said they had seized a Russian-made DSHK 12.7mm heavy machine gun, which can fire armour-piercing shells for a distance of two miles and is capable of shooting down British Army helicopters.

The IRA gun was hidden by a river at Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois, not far from where an arms cache containing two rocket-propelled grenade guns was discovered 10 days ago.

The IRA has claimed that it used two similar guns last month when it shot down a

Lynx helicopter in South Armagh.

Ten DSHK guns were seized, together with Sam missiles, in a gun-running operation involving the Eksund, a ship travelling from Libya, last October. But this is the first time that a heavy machine gun has been found by security forces on either side of the border.

No ammunition was found for the gun, although in January, 3,000 rounds were found in a separate dump in Co. Donegal.

Irish weapons experts will

now perform tests on the gun and send ballistic print-outs to Northern Ireland to determine whether it was one of those used against the Lynx.

"It is unlikely", said one Irish security expert. "The guns used against the helicopter are probably still near the border for more ready use."

Until now intelligence within the Irish republic has indicated that most of the IRA weapons are stored just inside the Irish border, in Co. Meath and Co. Louth, which is where two weekends ago a mortar

factory, with 500 lbs of homemade explosives was found.

Yesterday's find may make them reassess this. Fine searches in Co. Laois similar to those already conducted in Co. Meath could follow.

A report in the IRA's *Republican News* in Belfast said yesterday that the bombs used this week against the British base in West Germany were two devices made from Czech-made Semtex commercial explosive linked by a Cortex detonating cord. The two explosions occurred simultaneously, it said.

Travellers must have more protection

By Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor

Tougher rules for tour operators are called for by the Consumers' Association. Commenting on a new charter of holidaymakers' rights, Mr John Beishon, the association's director, said that the European draft directive on package travel would give travellers new protection with one hand and take it away with the other.

Unless the charter was tougher on tour operators, he said, holidaymakers would still face surcharges and holidays cancelled without proper compensation. The directive's

aims of making tour operators responsible for providing the holiday as booked and allowing holidaymakers to claim compensation for cancelled or altered holidays, were welcomed by the Association.

But in its comments to the Department of Trade and Industry, it pointed out that a number of the hoped-for benefits were cancelled by other clauses which would allow tour operators to "get away with" changes and cancellations while paying little or no compensation.

"We want tour operators to

be strictly liable for providing the holiday the consumer has booked and to compensate holidaymakers if there are unacceptable changes. Holidays are not interchangeable commodities, even though tour operators treat them as if they are", said Mr Beishon.

Articles five and seven of the association's approval. These would oblige tour operators to provide the holidays as booked and make them liable for deficiencies. Tour operators would have to cover their liability with insurance. This, said Mr Beishon, should

stop them casually changing flight times, hotels and departure airports without compensating travellers. It should also stop surcharging.

But Article four, as presently drafted, "would take away many of these benefits because it envisages that tour operators will still be able to make changes without compensating travellers".

Mr Beishon quotes the example of Article 4, permitting tour operators to cancel a holiday without compensation when too few people book.

Shipyard dispute five weeks on

Old-style strike halts new-tech Trident town

By Peter Davenport

At the Stand-Easy sandwich bar on the street corner opposite the sprawling VSEL shipbuilding complex in Barrow-in-Furness, Mr Charles Bickerstaffe was yesterday contemplating another dismal day for his once-thriving business.

Over the past 15 years he and his two assistants have daily served hundreds of sandwiches and cups of tea or coffee to the men who work in the industry which dominates the skyline and the economy of the town.

For the past five weeks, however, trade has fallen by 95 per cent. Nobody knows when it is likely to pick up again.

One of the world's most modern shipbuilding companies, now at the forefront of submarine technology with its

Trident nuclear warship programme, has been strike bound, bogged down in a dispute over fixed holidays that seems more suited to a past industrial era. The effect of the first all-out official stoppage in the company's history has been dramatic. The cranes that tower over the streets of terraced houses are motionless and a £300 million investment in latest technology lies unused.

All work on its submarine-building programme, including vessels other than the Tridents, has come to a halt and the dispute has come at an inopportune moment as it tries to secure a £3 billion order from Canada against stiff competition from the French.

Almost every household in the town has someone working in the yard and the local economy has already lost

£10 million through unpaid wages. A dispute that few expected to last seems all set to be prolonged and increasingly bitter with the unions preparing to establish feeding centres and appealing for donations of cash and supplies.

The strike is over the desire by the management to bring back the system of fixed, rather than flexible, summer holidays for the workforce in an attempt to improve productivity. There has been a build-up of tension at the yard creating an atmosphere in which the issue of fixed holidays has been able to assume such significance.

After five weeks and three sessions of talks the dispute is deadlocked. Management insists on a return to work before full talks on the question of holidays, the unions want a

solution before marching back.

Yesterday, Dr Rodney Leach, VSEL's chief executive and managing director, admitted that it could be argued that the holiday issue had brought other problems at the yard to a head. "It is beyond doubt that Trident is as complicated and as massive an engineering project that this country has ever tackled. To be able to succeed with it at all has required us to embark on a degree of detailed production planning such as has never happened in the shipbuilding industry."

Officials of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions acknowledge that the strike is beginning to create hardship for their members but insist there is no weakening of resolve. Mr Clive Kitchen, vice-chairman of the local branch, said:

"There has been no movement for a return. The strike is as solid today as it was when we first came out." He criticized the style of management. They were using the issue of holidays "as an excuse for their inadequacies".

The unions are preparing for the dispute to be prolonged. Mrs Judy Hale, whose husband Mike is a maintenance fitter at the yard, is organizing a women's support network and appealing for donations of food and cash. One family of four had only one tin of baked beans to see them through last weekend and had to help with an emergency cash handout.

Air Furness, which depended on business traffic to and from the shipyard, last night announced that it was going into liquidation.

Sunderland shipyard layoffs

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

British Shipbuilders yesterday announced "substantial" layoffs among the 2,300 workforce at North East Shipbuilders at Sunderland. It would not confirm local reports that as many as 750 workers may be laid off as the yard runs out of orders.

Those laid off will get 75 per cent of their normal wages while they are not working.

Mr Bob Clay, Labour MP for Sunderland North, said the figure of 750 was optimistic and he thought prospects were much worse.

The only order being worked on at the yard is one for 24 Danish ferries and that has run into legal problems. Two have been delivered but those still in the yards now have a questionable future

although work on them is continuing for the time being.

The eventual extent of the lay-offs and the question of when redundancies will have to be made depends on several factors.

The yard's best hope is a possible £100 million order from a Cuban operator, for 10 cargo ships.

The Department of Trade and Industry is reluctant to help to win the order by offering cash aid under the EEC intervention rules which allow national governments to put in up to 28 per cent of a contract's value to offset undercutting among Far East shipbuilders.

If the yard is taken over and switched back to the private sector, however, the Govern-

ment would be prepared to consider putting in intervention cash.

There are two main contenders for a possible takeover at the Sunderland yard. One is a Danish-led consortium and the other is North Venture, a development company, which is attempting to put together a consortium to buy facilities at North East Shipbuilders, to build about 40 vessels for dumping waste at sea.

As part of a continuing campaign to ensure the Sunderland yard's survival, a group of its workers, accompanied by wives and children, plan next Tuesday to go to 10 Downing Street to hand in a petition, signed by more than 100,000 people, calling for the yard to be saved.

Buyers reject £6m Turner and go for unknown painting

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

In a move that surprised the art world, a Turner painting with a reserve of more than £6 million and billed as a likely record breaker, failed to attract even one bid at a Christie's auction yesterday.

Yet at the same sale, buyers competed furiously for a work by an artist few people have heard of, Jacques-Louis Agasse. The latter's painting of *Two Leopards Playing* fetched an extraordinary £3.8 million against an estimate of up to £1 million, selling to a telephone bidder.

But *Cicero at his Villa*, the Turner painting — which had been estimated "in excess of £6 million" — drew no bids, although the auctioneer, Mr Noel Annesley, bravely pretended to follow them as eagerly as one might a tennis ball at Wimbledon.

Friend play lasted about 30 seconds, as onlookers craned their necks to spot the invisible bidders — coming to a grinding stop at £6.2 million.

The painting was expected at least to outstrip the record for a Turner — £7.37 million for *Seascape, Folkestone*, in 1984.

Unless a private, post-sale deal can be arranged, its owner, Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, will have to put it back on his wall again.

"The result shows the market is crazy," commented one dealer afterwards. "But it also shows that Christie's made a major misjudgement. They went into it on the assumption that it was worth that much

more than his record painting."

The consensus in the trade, however, had been that it was a "difficult" picture, lacking in emotional power — an "art historian's" painting.

"It nearly sold," Mr Charles Allsopp, chairman of Christie's (London), said. "It was a genuinely beautiful picture in wonderful condition. We may sell it afterwards."

He blamed the press for "floating" too high an estimate figure of £10 million rather than £6 million, saying it "may have frightened buyers off." But there appears to be some contradiction here.

If, as he says, the estimate was £6 million, it was clearly lower than the reserve — a reversal of the usual auction procedure where, for reasons of common sense, reserves are usually higher than estimates.

The picture, one of a hand by Turner still in private hands, was painted in 1839 when Turner was aged 64. It was based on sketches he did during his first trip to Italy in 1819 and shows the diminutive, toga-clad figure of Cicero gesturing from the foreground to the extensive glories of his realm, which extend into the hazy, mountainous distance.

When first shown at the Royal Academy in 1839 it was described by a critic as "another of Turner's examples of revelling with colour, and picturing the dreams of his fantasy".

Jacques-Laurent Agasse had

been marketed by Christie's as the "Swiss Stubbs", and like Stubbs, his painting shows considerable empathy for his subjects: two leopards, one standing and snarling, as the other rolls in apparent rapture at its feet.

Agasse came to England from Switzerland in 1800 and drew much of his inspiration from a menagerie at the Exeter Exchange on the Strand and its rare breeds in particular. The painting was commissioned by George Pitt, the second Baron Rivers.

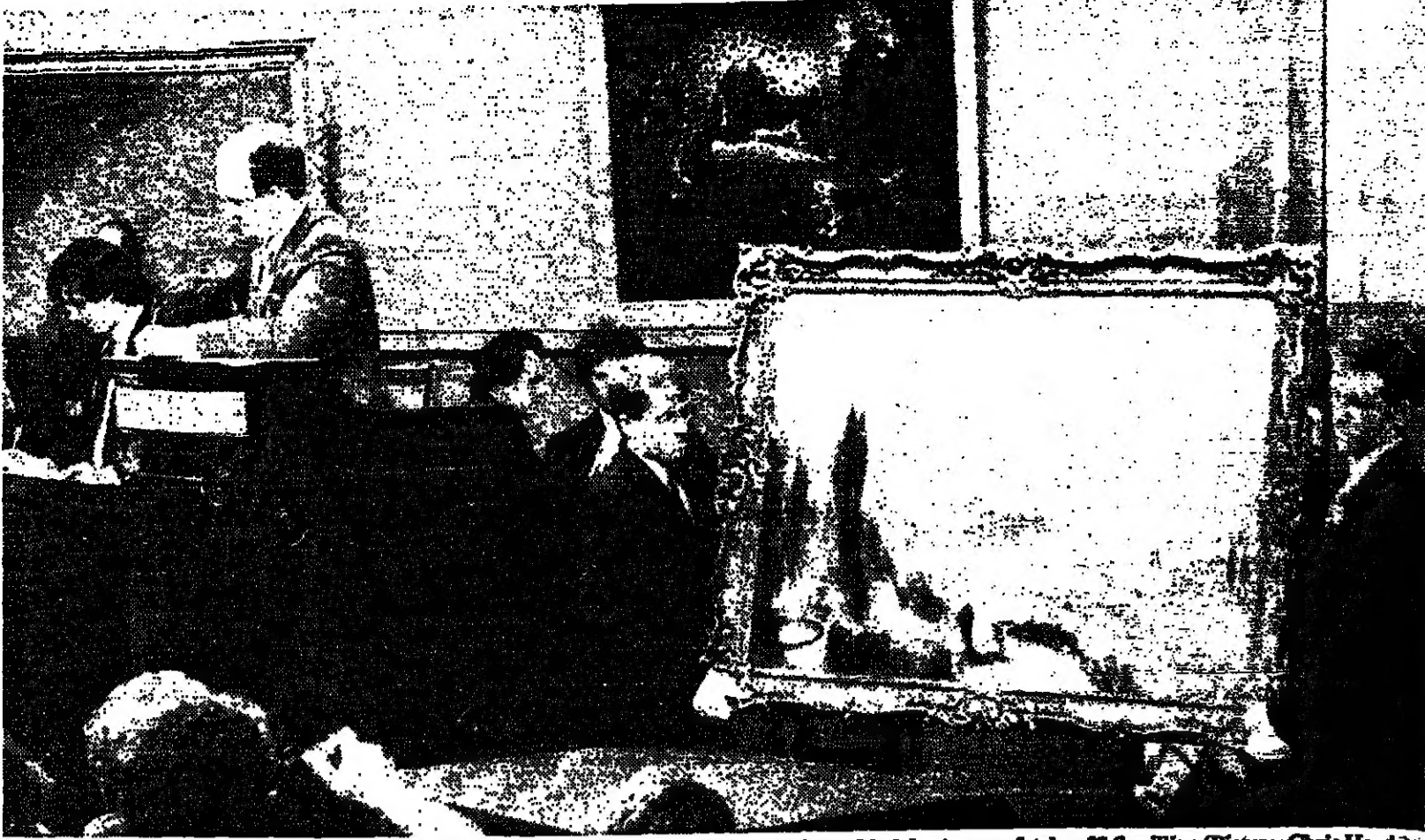
Yesterday's English picture sale at Christie's brought few surprises (writes Jenny Gilbert). A fine hunting scene by Herring sold at a little more than estimate at £440,000, two other almost identical treatments of the subject by the artist having been sold by Christie's in 1984 for £345,000 and £150,000 respectively.

That is evidence of the present strength of this quintessentially English field.

Interest is particularly strong in the United States sporting and country subjects, Christie's reports, although it is often British dealers who are doing the buying at auction.

An eighteenth-century picture of a gentleman reclining with a gun and dog, with his gamekeeper standing by, had been estimated to sell at between £20,000 and £40,000, the artist, Henry Walton being generally considered as one of the second rank.

Yesterday it sold to a London dealer for £253,000.



Surprise at Christie's yesterday as the Turner is withdrawn at £6.2 million and the painting behind, by Agasse, fetches £3.8 million (Picture: Chris Harris)

Roman vase was 25p bazaar bargain

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

A glass vase bought at a church bazaar for 25p has proved to be a rare Roman vessel nearly 2,000 years old. It was identified at an archaeological road show in Usk, Gwent, and is in perfect condition.

The purchaser, who wants to remain anonymous, said that she had seen Roman glass in a local museum and was intrigued by the vase, which she thought might be old. When she found that it was indeed Roman "my legs went weak". She bought the vase some months ago in Yorkshire. It is understood. Its condition suggests that it may have come from a grave: it is not known where it was discovered.

The vase, dating to the first or second century AD, was probably made in the

Rhineland. It has a long slim neck with a flared mouth, two S-shaped handles, and stands on a round base.

Mr Steve Sell, finds officer of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, who recognized the vase as Roman, said: "We held an open day at the Roman fortress site in Usk to display the results of the excavations, and as part of it we held an archaeological roadshow, to which people could bring things to be identified."

"A girl fished this glass vase out of a plastic bag, and I saw that it was Roman. To find such a fragile article of this quality, surviving completely undamaged after nearly 2,000 years is remarkable."

No value has yet been placed on the object, and the owner has not decided

whether to keep it, sell it, or lend it to a museum. Museums in Gwent are understood to be interested.

The British Museum is likely to be interested in acquiring it, since it holds the largest collection of Roman glass from archaeological sites, and has been collecting in this field since its foundation in 1753, and was the main contributor to the *Glass of Caesars* exhibition in 1987.

In that show the most important example of the Roman glass-maker's art from museum's around the world were brought together for the first time. Most of these were highly decorative and technically elaborate pieces, however, and nothing quite like the simplicity of the present find was on show.



Mr Sell with the vase he identified as Roman.

Alcohol report pinpoints biggest spenders

Lighter and quality drink sales rising

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

As the Government attempts to toughen its policies to tackle the growing problem of alcohol abuse, a report was published yesterday advising the industry how to identify potential drinkers.

The report, compiled by Euromonitor, warns companies away from younger drinkers aged 18 to 25 — at which most firms are now aiming new products — in favour of people aged between 25 and 34, who "dominate drinks spending, contain the greatest proportion of affluent, heavy consumers of

drink and are an expanding sector of the total population".

It points out that, although pubs are catering for the young in terms of theme and decor, including fruit machines, unemployment among this group was at its highest ever level. "With the 18 to 25-year-olds steadily on the decrease, it is unwise of the drinks industry to focus so much interest on the small sector of the under-25s."

The report confirms that more people are now drinking lighter drinks such as wines,

white spirits, mixable spirits and lager, instead of whisky or sherry. There has also been a movement towards quality, which had boosted sales of malt whisky, premium lager, cider and quality wines. The size of the low-non-alcoholic drinks market was also expected to grow.

The report emphasizes that current public concern about alcohol abuse was seen as a major threat to the industry. "Many recent reports, including one written by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, have painted a bleak picture of what

alcohol has done to the nation's health. There are signs that society is becoming less tolerant towards those who drink to excess."

It notes that because of fears that advertising will be restricted, spirits manufacturers had already agreed a self-imposed ban on television advertising. Instead the trade is taking part in social responsibility advertising.

The Alcoholic Drinks Report 1988 Euromonitor, 87-88 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5QU Letters, page 11

JPs join battle against drink abuse

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates were enlisted yesterday as the fight against alcohol abuse was stepped up.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said new powers to revoke public house licences would give more immediate control over premises where there was disorderly conduct. He told Dorset magistrates: "I am sure you will not shirk from your duty. To fail would be to risk serious damage to your country."

The new Licensing Act would enable justices to revoke a licence at any session, not just once a year. The Government alone cannot solve the problems of alcohol, he said.

He added: "Alcohol is a source of

harmless pleasure for many people, but the problems associated with its abuse are individually serious and damaging to society." Magistrates were placed in a vital position of responsibility in that respect and he urged them to think "very carefully" about how they discharged it.

In exercising that responsibility, magistrates must be scrupulously fair to licensees, as well as to those who might object to the renewal of a licence.

Referring to the threat of serious disorder in inner cities, football hooliganism and trouble in the shire counties, Lord Mackay said: "The problems associated with alcoholism cannot be solved by the Government alone. Customers, licensees and magistrates all

have a significant part to play." Magistrates could make exclusion orders against violent offenders, banning them from particular public houses.

"These orders protect licensees and their customers; they distance trouble-makers from potential trouble-spots. Licensees, I know, would like to see greater use made of these orders," Lord Mackay concluded. "These are important and significant new controls which the Government hope will strengthen the powers of licensing justices to curb nuisance and disorder."

Police Constable Ken MacDonald, of Edinburgh, convicted yesterday of drink-driving, is to keep his post as chairman of the Scottish Police Federation.

Libel-case police win £160,000

Eleven Metropolitan Police officers are to share £160,000 libel damages awarded yesterday in the High Court.

They were finally cleared of involvement in the beating of five schoolboys.

They had sued the London *Evening Standard* over articles in February 1986 which they said wrongly pinpointed them as the officers responsible for the attack in Holloway Road, north London, in 1983.

After 23 days of evidence a jury took more than four hours to find they had been libelled. The newspaper, which denied libel, was ordered to pay the estimated £350,000 costs, but granted a stay on payment of £126,000 of the award, pending a possible appeal.

The articles were written after the failure of two and a half years investigation to find who was responsible for the assault in which boots, fists and truncheons were used.

Mr Justice Turner had been told the officers were devastated when they read one headline, "We trace suspect van", referring to the van to which they were assigned.

The officers said in evidence they had been abused by colleagues, doubted by families and suffered stress and anguish. It was found later that the guilty officers, convicted last July, came from a different van.

TUC warning to unions Willis backs training drive

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, has warned trade unions opposing the Government's new £1.4 billion employment training programme that if it fails the whole union movement will deserve condemnation.

He said the scheme was one of the most crucial issues confronting the TUC for many years and the decision to be made by congress in September will have a big impact.

Outlining the TUC's current thinking and policy on training at a seminar organised by the Policy Studies Institute in London yesterday, Mr Willis said there was no viable alternative to the programme, which will be in operation by the autumn.

The Transport and General Workers' Union, the National

Union of Public Employees and the National and Local Government Officers' Association have said they will co-operate with the programme.

Without mentioning any names, Mr Willis said he could understand the suspicion of those opposed to the scheme.

He said the programme, which was devised by the Training Commission (formerly the Manpower Services Commission), was not perfect. But the trade unions had to work to build on the framework and improve it where possible.

Mr Willis said that if he could choose one issue that the unions and employers had to get right, that issue would be training. He said it offered economic success and individual

advancement. He regarded training as a fundamental civil right for everyone.

Mr Roy Jackson, assistant general secretary of the TUC, said the unions had a responsibility to deal with the deficiencies of the employment training scheme.

He said the quality of the Youth Training Scheme had a lot to do with the pressure exerted by the TUC and the employment training programme would have been very different if it had not been for the TUC.

The scheme would almost certainly have been compulsory and payments to those who go on it would have been less, he said.

Mr Jackson said he and his colleagues would work hard to win backing for the TUC's support for the programme.

Demand for Aids test on prisoners

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

There should be a mandatory test for all inmates on arrival in jail to see if they are HIV positive, the Board of Visitors of Durham Prison says in its annual report, released yesterday.

Officers are reluctant to deal with prisoners who are HIV positive and under restriction, and on occasions have refused

to do so. There were five HIV positive cases during the year. Habitual drug takers were difficult to monitor, but any inmate with a known drug history was offered a test.

Prisoners who are HIV positive are located in a normal wing with other similar cases, a prison spokesman said. They are not allowed

physical education or work in the kitchen where spillage of blood or bodily contact could be possible. The board added: "Although we are told there are no medical grounds for avoiding normal body contact with people who are HIV positive, nor for wearing protective clothing, understandable anxieties remain."

July 15 1988

Britain not 'washing its hands' of Hong Kong

The fears of the people of Hong Kong for their future, and the associated high level of emigration, were raised by MPs of all sides during an all-day debate on the colony.

Backbenchers voiced concern that Britain was washing its hands of Hong Kong as 1997 and the handing over to China approached. This was denied by ministers.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that emigration was a real problem, particularly among the professional and middle classes. But the scale should not be overstated. In the early 1970s, there had been more emigrants than in the last few years.

The Chinese Government was well aware of the significance of this question as a measure of confidence in the future.

He believed that Hong Kong people could have faith in Hong Kong's future.

He said that the most important component of the Anglo-Chinese relationship "is our joint commitment to the success of Hong Kong."

Opening the debate, Sir Geoffrey said that the people in Hong Kong were engaged in a vigorous debate on the draft of the Basic Law, a document that would play a crucial role in giving effect to the provisions of the Sino-British Joint Declaration and so in shaping Hong Kong's future.

"Both sides in addition have a common obligation to the people of Hong Kong."

The process of public consultation over Basic Law being conducted by the Chinese authorities was thorough and painstaking. A crucial phase had begun at the end of April with the publication of the first draft. It would continue for five months until the end of September. The way this matter was handled would have an important effect on how the people of Hong Kong viewed their future.

"The Chinese authorities have clearly recognized the need to retain the confidence of the people of Hong Kong in the drafting process."

The Basic Draft Law was a comprehensive document covering virtually all the provisions of the Joint Declaration. Most of the text was already very much along the right lines.

It must be recognized that a high degree of autonomy was not the same as independence.

A topic of particular significance was the relationship between Hong Kong and the National People's Congress in Peking in legislative and judicial matters as well as in the interpretation of the Basic Law. This was a crucial and sensitive area.

"It will be vital to confidence in Hong Kong to define the relationship in a way which not only reflects the fact of Chinese sovereignty but also properly meets the legitimate requirements and expectations of the Special Administrative Region."

A second area that needed to be looked at closely was the guarantee of essential rights and freedoms. There was under-

standable concern about how the provisions in the draft would work in practice. "We hope that the drafters will listen to these concerns and refine the draft accordingly."

Many people had expressed reservations about provisions in the draft which appeared to bind

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said that the Chinese Government had an unprecedented consultation exercise on the Basic Law.

He was pleased that in all the alternatives put forward for the composition of the Legislative Council, direct election would be involved and that in none of them was a proposal for less than 25 per cent of elected members. This showed up the timidity of the 18 per cent proposal by the UK Government.

However, he had misgivings about some of the other articles, and he gave examples.

He said that these were points of detail which were in no sense raised in criticism of the Chinese Government. "People will not have votes to cast in polling stations but they will be able to vote with their feet and I hope these votes will be a vote of confidence in the future of Hong Kong."

"I have great trust in the

future SAR Government to pursue certain economic or fiscal policies.

"There would appear to be good reason for this anxiety. As drafted, the provisions seem to encroach on the autonomy in these areas which the future SAR Government is to enjoy."

The British Government attached importance to achieving for the first government after July 1 1997 arrangements for continuity in administration and the legislative process across 1997.

Hong Kong officials to visit Hanoi and discuss the return of boat people from Hong Kong. So far there had been no significant slackening in the rate of arrival of boat people in Hong Kong.

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motives of the government of China."

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C) said that confidence was at a low ebb in Hong Kong. People feared the future. There had been significant migration of the most highly skilled people. These people feared that they would no longer have control of their own lives.

Some feared that this country was washing its hands of the territory and could not wait until it was wound down. "I do not believe these fears are realistic and I do not believe that is the view taken by the British Government about 1997."

Sir Russell Johnston, SLD spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said that many people in Hong Kong were not convinced that the Basic Law guaranteed what they had been promised. Emigration had been running at about 100,000 a year since 1984.

Mr Bernie Grant (Totterham, Lab) said that he had many people from Hong Kong in his constituency, and they wanted a referendum in the territory on the draft Basic Law.

There was a general feeling that the UK, having signed the Joint Declaration, was now about to "wash its hands of Hong Kong." His constituents felt that the Basic Law seemed to concentrate too much authority in the hands of Peking.

Sir Peter Blaker (Blackpool South, C) said that China had an enormous self interest in the success of Hong Kong. It would set an example which Taiwan might one day want to follow.

"I am an optimist about Hong Kong. I believe China is taking the drafting of the Basic Law very seriously and genuinely

wishes to consider comments from the people of Hong Kong. I believe that we shall see that China does consider very carefully the views that are expressed and that we can expect to see substantial progress on points of concern."

Mr James Coschman (Gillingham, C) said that the way the first chief executive and government succeeded to their positions was vital to the success of the whole enterprise. If the election was seen as a charade, confidence would collapse.

Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stortford, C) said that people were emigrating from Hong Kong because they felt that their freedoms would be restricted under the Basic Law and that their quality of life would worsen.

They were worried about the future of their children and about the frequent policy changes in China. They feared for the welfare and the safety of intellectuals, remembering that these people had been persecuted during the Cultural Revolution.

Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that he was well aware of concern in Hong Kong on the provisions in the Basic Law on relationships between central and local authorities in both judicial and legislative matters. The Government welcomed statements from Chinese officials that changes in the relevant article were mooted.

"We have no intention of washing our hands of Hong Kong. We will not walk away from the problems of transition. On the contrary, we will stay to tackle them with the Hong Kong government."

PARLIAMENT

Next week at Westminster

Daunting task for MPs on vital Bills

MPs will be considering more than a 1,000 amendments to the Education Reform Bill and the poll-tax legislation in the Commons next week, now that the two Bills have completed their passage through the Lords (Martin Fletcher writes).

Only three days have been set aside for this formidable task, and Labour have registered furious protests. Although Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, insists that many of the amendments are merely technical, he has agreed to further discussions with party business managers. Labour insists that it will settle for no fewer than four more full days.

At present, the Education Bill is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, and the Local Government Finance Bill for Wednesday. The Government will seek guillotine on both.

Labour is also angered that

Mr Douglas Hurd's controversial White Paper on reforming the Official Secrets Act is being debated in the Commons on Friday, a day normally set aside for backbench Bills or non-controversial issues, and when most MPs have returned to their constituencies.

The Home Office Green Paper on Punishment, Custody and the Community, which sets out new ways of dealing with offenders, is to be published on Monday.

Mr Dudley Fishburn, who held Kensington for the Conservatives at Thursday's by-election, will take his seat this week, probably on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, the procedure committee begins its task of updating obscure Commons procedure in readiness for the television cameras by taking evidence from the Clerk of the House.

UK films in peril

The British film industry was in its greatest financial crisis, Lord St John of Fawley (C), a former arts minister, told peers at a question time in the Lords. He urged the Government to look again at the most crucial economic question: the provision of initial development grants, which were enjoyed in other European countries.

Lord Beaverbrook, for the Government, had said that government policy was to encourage all industries to compete. "We do not consider that special measures are needed for the film industry."

Expansion arising from satellite broadcasting channels and the requirement for Channel 4 to move towards 25 per cent independent production represented new opportunities.

Smaller, more compact and more efficient studios might well be the sort that the industry would thrive on rather than trying to compete in the big international market. Facilities on the scale of Elstree Studios might well not be the way forward.

Republican Party finds itself under challenge in battle to win votes in the electoral middle ground

Democrats in bid to break the coalition Reagan built

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The selection by the US Democrats of Senator Lloyd Bentsen as their vice-presidential candidate underlines the importance for the party of balancing the ticket and thus forging the broadest possible coalition of voters.

If it can maintain unity at the convention in Atlanta next week, it has something beyond its grasp for the past eight years — the chance to win. The Democrats are well placed to prise apart the winning coalition built by President Reagan in 1980 and 1984. Many who supported him are lukewarm at best in their commitment to his successor as White House candidate, Vice-President George Bush.

American voters are traditionally divided into liberals and conservatives, with subdivisions by class, income, race and religion. But a mass

adult lives. Not yuppies — few went to university — they are optimistic about their lives and America's future. The second, very different, are middle-aged, alienated, sceptical of government and business. They perceived Mr Reagan mainly as an outsider challenging the system.

The Democrats' natural supporters were divided into five groups. The largest are the "New Dealers" — an ageing category with many blue-collar workers, union members, and Roman Catholics. They favour social spending, but are conservative on abortion and school prayer, and are pro-defence and anti-communist.

The "60s Democrats", the second largest group, stands in marked contrast. They are younger, mainly female, high on the scale in education and income, strongly identify with environmental, peace and civil rights movements.

Among the three other groups are the "passive poor" and "partisan poor" who include many blacks and the economically disadvantaged, who see the Democrats as a source of assistance. They are relatively conservative on social and foreign issues.

The third component is the "seculars" — defined mainly by their lack of strongly held religious beliefs that are so important to most Americans. Strong on the East and West Coasts, they want to cut military spending and oppose abortion. Well-educated, they are potentially strong Democrat supporters, but have been sceptical of past candidates.

All five groups share a belief in using government to improve people's lives. But the party has suffered among key potential supporters for its perceived lack of governmental competence. Mr Michael Dukakis's harping on this theme and his selection of an experienced Senate insider are therefore astute moves.

Another two population groups identified in the survey play little part in the American political process: the "followers" and "bystanders". The former vote in only about half their proportion to the electorate and are young, poorly educated and have a large percentage of blacks and Hispanics. They lean towards the Democrats. The latter, mostly under 30, single and white, are content to let others decide.

The survey, based on in-depth interviews with 4,244 voters, shows the Democrats could mobilize a large share of the electorate around the theme of social justice and in favour of specific programmes. But it also found deep scepticism about the federal government and strongly conservative social attitudes.

Both Mr Bush and Mr Dukakis, therefore, have to tread a fine line between liberal concerns and traditional attitudes. The American belief in equality was also balanced by faith in individual achievement. The survey also uncovered attitudes likely to help the Republicans: while many people are critical of business, they also see it as essential to prosperity. Americans are intensely patriotic, deeply devoted to religious faith, and have a visceral opposition to communism. Mr Reagan perfectly embodied all these bedrock attitudes.

The survey also uncovered attitudes likely to help the Republicans: while many people are critical of business, they also see it as essential to prosperity. Americans are intensely patriotic, deeply devoted to religious faith, and have a visceral opposition to communism. Mr Reagan perfectly embodied all these bedrock attitudes.

The classifications

ENTERPRISES: married, northern European ancestry, suburban; 18% of likely voters, 99% white, 60% male, 99% Republican. Anti-government, pro-business, oppose tax rises to cut deficit, health spending. **HEROES:** Reagan, Lee Iacocca. **MORALISTS:** rural, many are "born again" Christians; 14% of voters, 84% white, 45% male, 99% Rep. Strongly anti-abortion, anti-communist, for school prayer, death penalty, restrictions on AIDS patients. **HEROES:** Reagan, Billy Graham. **UPBEATS:** middle income, little college education, under 40; 9% of voters, 94% white, 44% male, 66% Rep. 13% Democrat. Against contra aid; economic, budget deficit main concern. **HEROES:** Reagan, Iacocca, John Kennedy. **DISAFFECTEDS:** middle-aged, middle income, under economic pressure; 7% of voters, 95% white, 57% male, 44% Rep. 26% Dem. Anti-government support and death penalty; military employment and budget deficit main concerns. **HEROES:** None. **BYSTANDERS:** aged under 30, poorly educated, little interest in current affairs; unlikely to vote; 82% white, 48% male, 29% Rep, 33% Dem. **HEROES:** Kennedy. **FOLLOWERS:** young, poorly educated, blue-collar, many blacks and Hispanics, little religious commitment; 4% of voters, 60% white, 47% male,



The Rev Jesse Jackson setting out for Atlanta on board one of the six buses in his 'Jackson Action Rainbow Express'.

Dukakis sheds liberal taint with his calculated snub to Jackson

Mr Michael Dukakis's brusque treatment of the Rev Jesse Jackson is regarded by many as a graceless gaffe, an unnecessary wounding of a proud man's spirit.

Of course, they argue, Mr Jackson had to be let down: it had been clear for months that Mr Dukakis was not going to invite him to join the Democratic ticket. But did he have to be put down? Could not Mr Dukakis, who prides himself on management skills, have tried a little harder to reach his remaining rival before the public announcement of Mr Lloyd Bentsen?

Apologetic campaign aides say Mr Jackson was travelling that morning and that journalists got to him first at the airport. Did anyone try paging him? Or suggest the announcement be held back a few more hours?

Mr Dukakis has now to contend with Mr Jackson's angry resentment which, unless assuaged, could all too easily translate into disillusion and alienation of his many enthusiastic supporters.

Mr Dukakis has unveiled his chosen running mate against a background of controversy, opened fissures in the party and risks a convention more like the free-wheeling, unpredictable party con-

ference the Russians have just held than the well-orchestrated, old-style Soviet gatherings he would clearly have preferred.

He said his choice of Mr Bentsen was his first "presidential" act. If this is the style, some complain, the man being presidential in January will be Mr George Bush.

But the Dukakis callousness was neither accident nor gaffe. The choice of Mr Bentsen was a shrewd gamble, and the

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

touch of impatience with Mr Jackson an important signal. Mr Dukakis has demonstrated that he understands it is more important to collect votes than to court or console individuals and their special interest groups; and that, if he wants to slough off the fatal stigmatisation as a liberal, he has to behave in a way that shows he is not liberal.

Mr Dukakis knows that elections are won on the centre ground. He must play for the support of those to the right of him. He was helped by having Mr Jackson as a contender on the left during the primaries. Many of those unreconciled to a radical black

reckoned that anyone Mr Jackson opposed must be more conservative and therefore more acceptable. To send out the same message to the heartlands of America, and especially to white Southerners, Mr Dukakis cannot now be seen fusing his forces with the Jackson camp's calls for military cuts, higher taxes and a Palestinian state.

A little sharp debate at Atlanta helps to maintain a distance. It makes it all the harder for Mr Bush to bandy charges of "McGovern liberalism" with such relish.

Former Democrats whose running mates were Northern liberals: from Edmund Muskie in 1968 to Geraldine Ferraro in 1984, Mr Dukakis has changed all that. As Mr Bentsen said on being nominated, the choice showed the Democrats are not going to concede a single state, including Texas.

Former President Nixon, a master campaigner, understands the threat well enough: he has just warned Mr Bush that Mr Bentsen has strengthened the Democratic threat and made Texas, Mr Bush's adopted home state, "the big enchilada". He even suggests Mr Bush might do well to concentrate instead on winning another big state, such as

California.

On the day of his letdown, Mr Jackson made an icy but tightly restrained speech saying he was "too controlled, too mature to be angry". He seems now to be almost out of control, carried along on the waves of bitter emotion from his supporters. There is the palpable frustration of the man who has played his last card and has nowhere to go.

For Mr Dukakis has not only refused to pay him any of the craved "respect", but brutally rubbed in the message that Mr Jackson is not to play any special role. Mr Dukakis knows that Mr Jackson can remain a politician of stature only within the Democratic Party. In the end, he will have to accept that Mr Dukakis is the man of the moment.

It is hard-ball politics, the demonstration of the arrogant self-assurance that lost Mr Dukakis the governorship of Massachusetts after his first term. He went to Harvard to learn about give-and-take.

Clearly something of the old streak remains: the head has played a large role over the past week, the heart is barely visible. But elections, most analysis concludes, are won with the head. And mistakes are made from the heart.

Faceless candidate, page 10

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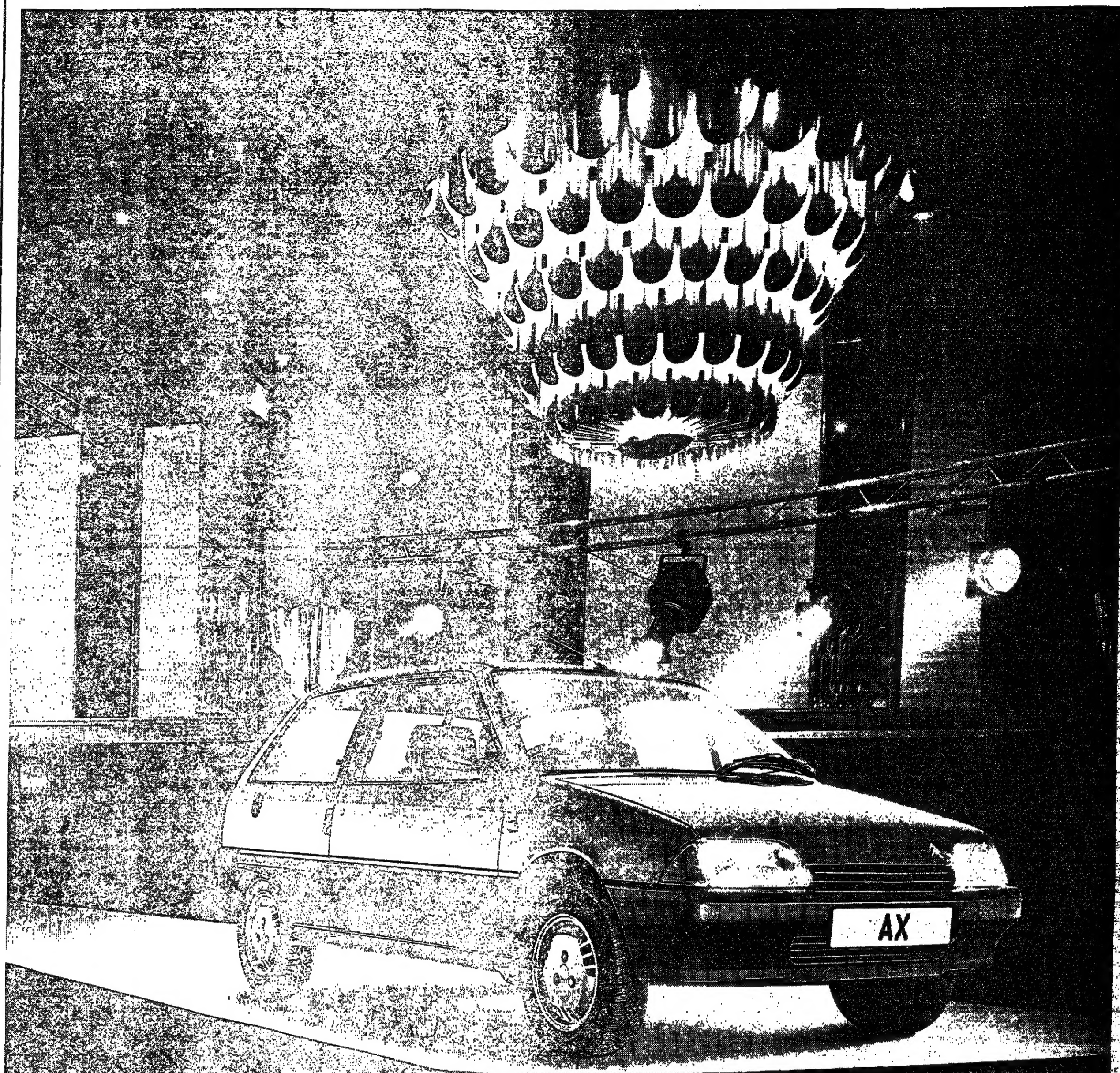


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War of wills over ANC leader's birthday

Mandela's wife snubs visit offer after celebration ban

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mrs Winnie Mandela announced yesterday that she and other members of her family had rejected an unprecedented government offer to be allowed to spend six hours with her husband, Mr Nelson Mandela, leader of the outlawed African National Congress, in Robben Island prison outside Cape Town on Monday, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

A statement issued by Mr Mandela's lawyer, Mr Ismail Ayob, said that Mrs Mandela and her husband had "never asked for any special privileges" and preferred to focus attention on the plight of other families with loved ones in jail. "She (Mrs Mandela) will spend the day quietly at home (in Soweto) alone as she has done for the past 26 years," Mr Ayob said. She would pay a normal visit to her husband later next week.

It appears that Mrs Mandela's decision to call off the prison visit by herself and 10 other close family members was prompted by the banning of a pop concert that was to have been held in honour of Mr Mandela at an open-air venue outside Johannesburg tomorrow. The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, announced the ban on Thursday night. Some 25,000 people had been expected to attend, paying five rands a head (£1.25). The proceeds would have gone to various local charities.

The offer of the special prison visit was made at the end of June. Mrs Mandela and her family would have been allowed to stay with her husband from 9am to 3pm. This would have been in addition to the normal quota of 30 visits a year by a maximum of two people at a time, each visit lasting no more than 40 minutes, with a

prison officer present throughout.

There were renewed calls, meanwhile, from Britain and other foreign governments for the freeing of Mr Mandela as birthday greetings flooded in to South Africa from around the world.

Mr Mandela was arrested on Sunday, August 5, 1962. At the time he was operating underground as the commander of the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), which he founded the previous December. He ran into a police roadblock near Howick in Natal while disguised as the chauffeur of a sympathetic white friend. According to one account, his identity and whereabouts had been betrayed to the police by a local American diplomat working for the CIA.

Jailed initially for five years for incitement and leaving the country illegally, Mr Mandela, along with other leading ANC members, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the so-

called Rivonia trial of 1963-1964 on charges of high treason and sabotage.

Until his transfer to Pollsmoor in 1983, Mr Mandela was held on Robben Island, the maximum security prison in Table Bay. He has now been in prison longer than most of the blacks who worship him have been alive.

The Government's propaganda department, the Bureau for Information, yesterday took the unusual step of circulating its own biography of Mr Mandela. This disputed the ANC leader's claim that he was not a communist, which he made in a famous four-hour speech from the dock during the Rivonia trial. The bureau also said that Mr Mandela, because of his advocacy of violence, did not qualify as a "political prisoner" on the definition used by Amnesty International.

Mr Mandela's trial speech, in the preparation of which he was given some editorial assistance by Anthony Sampson, then covering the trial for *The*

Observer, has become one of the sacred texts of resistance to white rule and a classic statement of the principles of black nationalism.

In it he described himself as "an African patriot" who had been "influenced by Marxist thought". But he denied being a communist, and said the political systems he admired were those of Britain and the United States. He said the ANC had gone into alliance with the Communist Party because they both shared the immediate goal of ending white supremacy, and he cited by way of comparison the anti-Nazi wartime pact between Britain, America and the Soviet Union.

"Theoretical differences among those fighting against oppression is a luxury we cannot afford at this stage," he told the court. "What is more, for many decades Communists were the only political group in South Africa who were prepared to treat Africans as human beings and their equals; who were prepared to eat with us, talk with us, live with us and work with us."

● LONDON: Britain yesterday renewed its appeal to Pretoria for the release of Mr Mandela (Nicholas Beeson writes).

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said that the release of the ANC leader was "crucial to the prospects for peaceful change within South Africa" and that it would be an "important gesture" towards creating the climate for dialogue between races and suspending violence.

● TOKYO: The Japanese Government yesterday called on South Africa to release not only Mr Mandela but all other political prisoners being held in the country.

Newborn baby left in plane



Mrs Christina LoCasto, with her lawyer, Mr John Williams, listening with head bowed as she is accused of endangering her newborn baby by abandoning it on an aircraft. Mrs LoCasto, aged 24, from New York, was arrested and charged in San Francisco on Thursday after she gave birth on a cross-country flight and her baby was later found in the aircraft lavatory (Reuters reports).

She denied the charge and was released from San Mateo County Jail on bail of \$50,000 (£29,000). If convicted of child endangerment, Mrs LoCasto faces a possible six years in prison. The child, an 8lb 10oz girl, named Elizabeth by nurses, was reported in good

condition at a nearby hospital after having been found in the waste bin of the lavatory on a United Airlines DC10 when it landed at San Francisco international airport on Wednesday. Cabin cleaners heard the baby crying when they boarded the aircraft.

Armenia angered by TV criticism of clash

Moscow (Reuters) — Troops controlled Yerevan airport yesterday after what residents described as an explosive reaction to a Soviet television film which portrayed Armenians protesting over the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute as hooligans.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, said that indignation was running high after the film, which was broadcast after midnight on Thursday.

He denied an earlier statement by a spokesman for the official Armenpress news agency that airport workers upset by the film had closed the airport with a strike. But the national airline, Aeroflot, said all flights in and out of Yerevan had been delayed yesterday and the situation remained confused.

A spokesman for the Armenian Communist Party newspaper *Kommunist* said there had been "an explosive reaction" to the film, in which soldiers sent in to clear the airport during a two-day blockade last week said they had been battered by stones and bottles and responded in self-defence.

The *Kommunist* spokesman said: "It only interviewed troops and did not give passengers at the airport or demonstrators a chance to state their case." No Armenians were interviewed in the programme.

It was the first Soviet tele-

Moscow (Reuters) — Afghan rebels fired more than 20 rockets into a residential area of Kabul yesterday, killing 20 people and wounding 34 others, Tass said.

It was one of the most serious attacks by Mujahidin guerrillas on the Afghan capital since the Soviet troop pull-out began two months ago.

Tass said that many buildings were damaged, including a mosque. It gave no other details of the attack, but said at least five people, including three children, had been killed in rebel raids in the provinces of Paktia, Paktika and Kunar.

The attack followed reports of a stepped-up guerrilla war in eastern areas, around Kabul and near Kandahar. Fourteen people were killed in car bombings and rocket attacks on Kabul last week, according to Kabul radio.

vision treatment of the July 4-5 airport blockade, in which a youth was shot dead by a plastic bullet and 36 people were seriously injured. One soldier interviewed said the airport blockade was "a well-organized provocation". He and other troops alleged that the action had been controlled by "hooligans".

"Given the Kremlin's alleged commitment to glasnost, the programme was scandalous," said one Western diplomat who saw it.

Yerevan residents have held mass protests every day since the clashes. Some 200,000 people rallied on Thursday evening, and officials predicted that the crowds would swell yesterday.

"People are not exactly delighted by the television film," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "I think it will be the main topic at tonight's debate." He said angry people began gathering in small groups to discuss the programme early in the day.

Yerevan residents said troops were lining the road to the airport and checking all vehicles. One woman contacted by telephone from Moscow said: "They are not admitting people who want to see passengers off."

Yesterday Tass made no mention of Thursday's rally and said nothing about the reaction to the television programme. Radio and television also kept silent.

Tass carried a brief report saying some 20,000 Azerbaijanis had left Armenia since the ethnic dispute began, and 7,265 Armenians had fled Azerbaijan. It said the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh's capital, Stepanakert, paralysed by a general strike since late May, remained tense.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Teamsters name new president

Washington (AP) — Mr William McCarthy, the senior official of the Teamsters in the north-east United States for two decades, yesterday succeeded the late Jackie Presser as president of America's largest trade union. The Teamsters' 17-member general executive picked Mr McCarthy, aged 69, of Boston, in preference to its secretary-treasurer, Mr Weldon Mathis, who was named acting president by Mr Presser on May 4.

While several of the union's 16 regional vice-presidents had jockeyed for position to succeed Mr Presser, the race had narrowed to Mr McCarthy and Mr Mathis in the last week. Mr McCarthy, who has a reputation of being a tough negotiator with a quick temper, will serve out his predecessor's five-year term, which expires in 1991, when the union holds its next international convention.

The Teamsters — which is known officially as the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America — represents workers in Canada as well as in the US, and has 1.6 million members. Mr Presser had been president since 1983.

Bishop is accused

Nairobi (AP) — Kenyan MPs accused an Anglican bishop of having links with a missionary relief agency used by South Africa to destabilize the country, and urged his church to defrock him. Nairobi newspapers reported.

Bishop Alexander Muge, who was barred from visiting his diocese after criticizing the Government's relief distribution, dismissed the allegations and invited the Government to establish who was correct. The Church of the Province of Kenya said it had confidence in Bishop Muge, who also alleged massive rigging during March elections.

War crimes hearing

Vancouver (Reuters) — The Canadian Government said that it would call 50 witnesses, 30 of them from The Netherlands, in an attempt to revoke the citizenship of a convicted Dutch-born Nazi collaborator who now lives in Vancouver. Mr Arnold Fradkin, a federal war crimes lawyer, said that hearings to take evidence against Jacob Luitjens, a retired botany professor at the University of British Columbia, would be held in The Netherlands and perhaps also in Israel this year. Luitjens, aged 69, was convicted of collaboration in 1948 after being tried in absentia by a Dutch court.

Olympic peace plea

Seoul (Reuters) — A new Seoul-based peace movement called yesterday for a moratorium on war and terrorism during the 1988 Olympic Games. The "Seoul Assembly of Olympians", which was formed this week by priests, businessmen, academics and Red Cross officials, said that it was sending a petition for peace to heads of state, Nobel Peace Prize winners, and prominent personalities in human rights, religion and the arts.

President Arias of Costa Rica, the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize winner, had been among the first to sign the document.

Former Doe ally held

Monrovia (Reuters) — Men in military uniforms have ransacked the home of former Colonel Larry Bortch, once a senior ally of President Doe of Liberia, right, and taken him away for questioning. Relatives said he was taken on Wednesday, the day the Government says security forces shot and killed Nicholas Podier — a Doe supporter and former vice president in exile since 1986 — accusing him of leading a group of anti-Government rebels.

Thais seize weapons

Bangkok (AP) — Thai officials have seized hundreds of weapons, including M16 and AK rifles, hand grenades, and 10,413 rounds of ammunition, in a nationwide crackdown intended to ensure law and order for the July 24 general elections, police said yesterday.

Most of the weapons were seized in Chantaburi, Prachinburi and Kancharaburi provinces in Thailand's troubled border areas with Cambodia and Burma, a police official said. A task force was formed in April to crack down on holders of illegal weapons.



The Airbus disaster in the Gulf

Tehran fails to secure useful UN resolution

From Charles Bremner, New York

Iran's Foreign Minister, swallowing a rebuff from the United Nations Security Council over the Airbus incident, yesterday accused the Americans of behaving like a drunken driver and rejected calls for an international Gulf peacekeeping force.

Dr Ali-Akbar Velayati also listened impassively as Mr John Birch, Britain's acting Ambassador, told the Security Council of Britain's profound regret at "the appalling accident" involving Iranian airliner.

It was clear yesterday that Iran had failed to persuade the Security Council to consider the kind of resolution it wanted. This would have condemned the US in the same way as a resolution that denounced the Soviet Union in the aftermath of the destruction of the South Korean airliner in September, 1983. Moscow then suffered the embarrassment of applying its veto to block the vote.

At the Council debate, Mr Valentin Lizinsky, the acting Soviet Ambassador, renewed Moscow's demand that the US fleet leave the Gulf waters immediately. European diplomats said Council members generally believed Vice-President George Bush had scored a points victory over Dr Velayati when both men delivered impassioned speeches in the opening debate held on Thursday.

Dr Velayati said earlier yesterday that failure by the Security Council to condemn the US would demonstrate American power over the body. "The shooting down of the airliner is a litmus test for the Security Council."

There was nothing in Mr Bush's speech that offered any comfort to Iran since Washington still refused to accept responsibility for destroying the airliner, Dr Velayati said. Iran did not just want American charity, in the form of *ex gratia* compensation. He declined to say whether Iran would allow the families to receive the money.

Behind the scenes Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, and

other officials have been using Dr Velayati's presence to try to draw Iran back into UN efforts to end the Gulf War.

He told reporters that Iran believed security in the Gulf was the responsibility of littoral states, a position that ruled out proposals by Moscow, UN officials and others to send an international naval presence.

But the Iranian minister said Iran was still open to UN efforts to organize a ceasefire. Iran has been making such vague assertions for a year since the Security Council ordered a ceasefire and Iraq agreed to comply.

Mr Birch echoed Mr Bush's view that Iran should bear some of the blame for the Airbus incident. "Had that demand of the Security Council been met, we should not be considering here today another horror born of this senseless conflict," he said.

● BAHRAIN: An American warship went to the aid of the 85,989-ton Liberian tanker Sea Victory under fire from gunboats in the Gulf yesterday but arrived well after the attackers had left, the tanker's captain said (Reuters reports).

Flight tape backs Iranian claims

New York (NYT) — The transcript of radio exchanges between air traffic controllers and the destroyed Iranian Airbus appears to support Iran's assertion that it was sending normal radar signals for a civilian aircraft and climbing from 12,000 ft to its assigned altitude of 14,000 ft when it was shot down by the US Navy.

The transcript also shows that the pilots of Flight 655 talked to three controllers on three different frequencies in the seven minutes from take-off until it was shot down, suggesting that they were unlikely to have been monitoring a separate emergency frequency on which the Pentagon says warnings were issued.

The transcript was made public at the United Nations on Thursday by Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister.

After the pilot of Flight 655 radioed the tower in Bandar Abbas, Iran, for permission to start taxiing, the controller relayed the request to Tehran, where flight controllers talked to controllers in the United Arab Emirates.

Dubai agreed to the altitude assignment — 14,000 ft — and the transponder code (used to enhance radar signals) and

this was relayed to the pilot. The four-digit code assigned to each flight makes the radar echo reveal information unique to that flight.

The transponder command "Squawk 6760" was confirmed routinely from the three sets of controllers to the pilot.

In the seven minutes after take-off, the pilots made the routine switch from the tower frequency to the controllers who monitor the airspace near the Bandar Abbas airport, then to the Tehran controllers who direct aircraft outside airport areas.

It was in these seven minutes that the Pentagon said the US Navy cruiser Vincennes issued seven warnings on military and civilian emergency frequencies.

In seven calls to the two flight controllers, the pilots of Flight 655 reported climbing through three different altitudes — 3,500 ft, 7,000 ft and 12,000 ft. The Vincennes reported that the plane was between 7,000 ft and 9,000 ft and descending.

According to the transcript, the aircraft's last position report was to the approach controller at 10:54 am, the moment the Vincennes fired two missiles at the aircraft.

Greece tests French connection in ferry attack

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greek security officials are investigating the possibility that the terrorist assault on the cruise ship *City of Pors* last Monday, which left nine dead, might have been the work of a suicide squad that could have included a Frenchman.

Mr Evangelos Yannopoulos, the Minister of Merchant Marine, yesterday said there were "indications, but nothing concrete" that a man who died at a Piraeus hospital an hour

after being brought from the rescue ships may have been a terrorist.

The minister described him as a Frenchman because of a piece of paper with French writing found on the body, but refused to name him.

Hospital sources said the man, aged 23 and probably a student, was wearing a khaki shirt similar to one that witnesses claimed was worn by one of the attackers.

The minister said investigators were exploring the

possibility that Mohammed Zozad, the young Arab identified as one of the assailants from photographs taken on the ship, may also be among the dead. Officials refused to comment on a report that Zozad had been arrested and was being questioned.

The Piraeus coroner's office confirmed that only four of the nine dead had been identified: the first mate, a Danish man, a Swedish woman, and Isabelle Bismuth, aged 21, the Frenchwoman that police at

first described as a terrorist. Four bodies are badly charred. Two of them are men, one of whom may be a Hungarian who has been reported missing. There was the body of another woman, a severely charred body whose gender could not be determined, and a gruesome collection of severed limbs.

The "troika" of the Trevi group, the European Community's security watchdog, met in Athens yesterday to discuss terrorism. The group, consist-

ing of senior security officials from West Germany, Greece and Spain, is believed to have discussed the attack last Monday.

However, it is understood the meeting focused on an alert by Interpol this week which, according to a Dutch newspaper, warned that five Arab terrorists, identified by name and passport number, planned to hijack an Arab passenger plane between London and a capital in North Africa.

Nicaraguan sugar firm to fight state takeover

From David Gollob, Managua

Political, rather than economic, motives determined the Nicaraguan Government's decision to expropriate the San Antonio sugar mill, the general manager of Nicaraguan Sugar Estates told journalists in Managua. Nicaraguan Sugar owns the mills and is the country's biggest private company.

"By taking this step the Government is moving more towards a leftist regime," Señor Carlos Pellas said. He added that he would fight the move in court.

The Sandinista Government expropriated the mill on Wednesday "in the national interest," arguing that mismanagement, decapitalization and neglect had caused a

dramatic fall in production of what was a key export.

Señor Jaime Wheelock, Agrarian Reform Minister, said: "This is not a political move, and not a move against the Pellas family. It is a question of saving the mill."

The Pellas family, one of Nicaragua's oldest and wealthiest, are big shareholders in Nicaraguan Sugar. Unlike many of the country's aristocratic families, they were allowed to keep most of their assets after the 1979 revolution.

Considered traitors by the 90,000 Nicaraguan exile community in Miami, the Pellas family took Sandinista promises to maintain a mixed economy at face value and became the most impressive symbol of the coexistence of the private sec-

tor and the Marxist-influenced Government. Señor Pellas said the family felt it had been "stabbed in the back".

He added: "Whatever the reason, this is definitely a signal to the private sector that a new era has started in this country."

Señor Pellas produced what he said were government statistics showing that sugar production had fallen at the six state-owned mills as well, which were operating at 36 per cent of capacity, while the San Antonio mill was operating at 44 per cent of capacity. "We're being accused of something that is not true," he said.

The mill was destroyed in the revolution, but the company rebuilt it, and by 1982 production had

returned to its pre-revolution level of 2.7 million bags a year, more than half of Nicaragua's total production.

Señor Pellas said production had declined after 1984 because the Government had stopped allowing the company to keep a share of hard currency earnings from export sales in order to replace machinery.

The company needs \$6 million (about £3.75 million) annually to keep the plant in optimum running order. However, since 1984 it had received only \$2 million a year, and every purchase had to be authorized by a slow-moving bureaucracy, Señor Pellas said.

The company will challenge the expropriation in a special court, known as the Agrarian Tribunal. However, the tribunal is run by

Señor Wheelock's ministry. "The judge is also a party to the dispute," Señor Pellas said.

"We have maybe a 20 to 30 per cent chance." There is no other right of appeal.

The expropriation follows the expulsion of the US Ambassador and seven other US diplomats, the arrest and sentencing of four opposition leaders for inciting public disorder, and the temporary shutdown of opposition media.

Although the expropriation is unlikely to be connected, these moves suggest the Government has decided to adopt a tougher line on the economic as well as the political front, and is reverting to some of the Marxist policies that critics blame for the sorry state of the economy.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

PRESENTS

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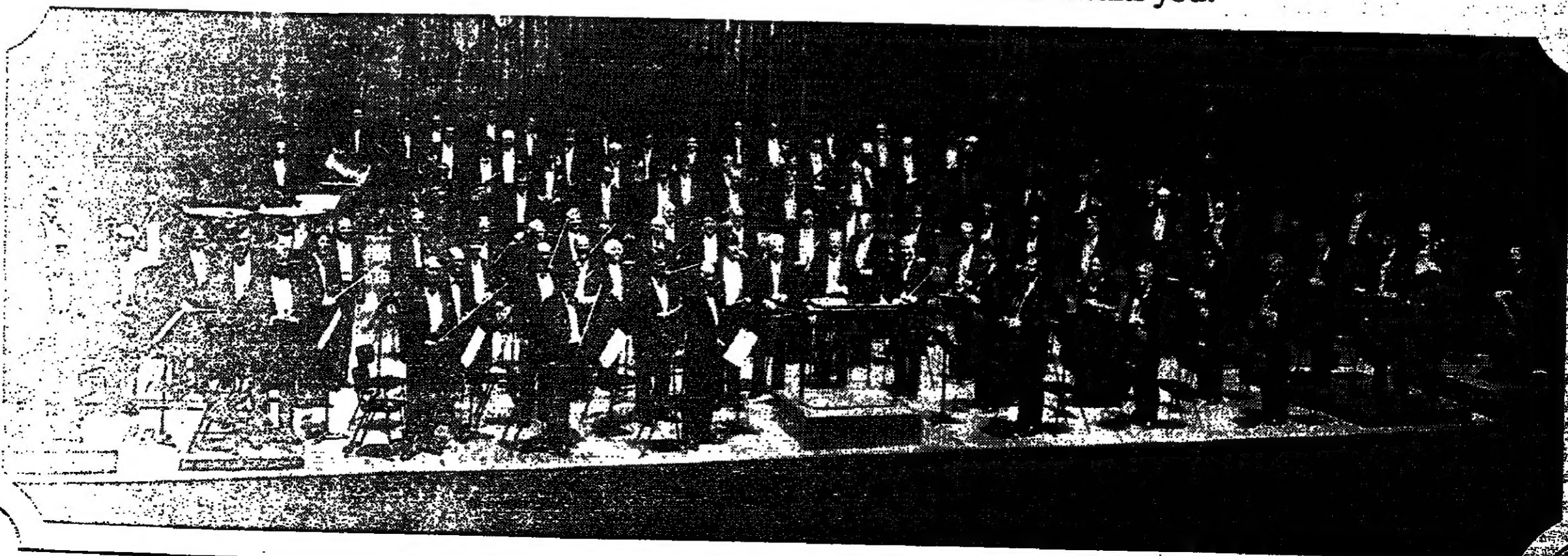
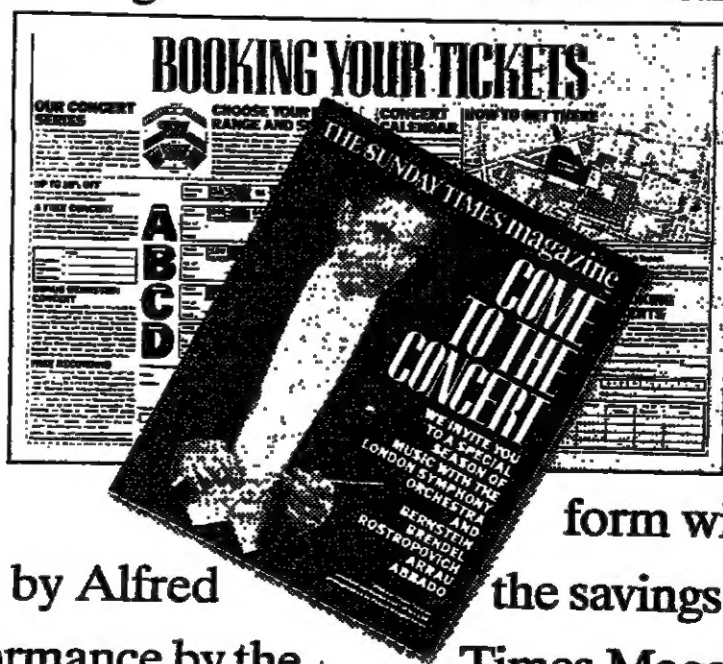
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TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

This column has always had a soft spot for lunatic activities. So today I would like to wish good luck and godspeed to a bunch of people who will swim from Richmond to Blackfriars Bridge tomorrow. Among the dangers they face are a four-knot tide, moored barges and a sewage workers' occupational disease caused by rats. No one can say the organizers are over-glamourizing the event.

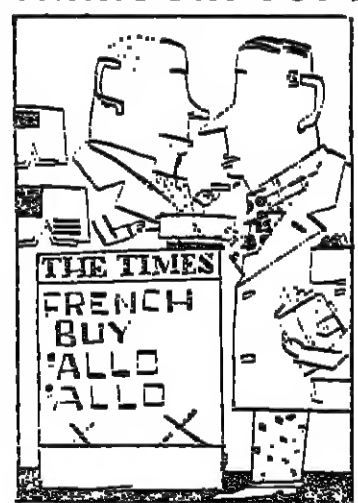
The swim is simultaneously a celebration of the improved cleanliness of the Thames — "the cleanest metropolitan river in the world" says the Thames Water Authority — and a stunt to point out that more needs to be done. The problem is the Victorian drainage system that carries both rainwater and sewage. Heavy rain propels vast quantities of filth into the river: it happens about once a year, and when it does the water at Battersea is 200 times dirtier than normal.

Doctors have advised against the swim, warning particularly of the dangers of open cuts and of (ugh) swallowing the water. The organizer, John Perry, wants swimmers to keep in touch and report back if they get any stomach or eye problems. The entire event has a kind of quirkiness about it that makes ski-jumping look a comfortable option.

Faithful readers will recall the prep school match mentioned in this space last week: how Cranleigh under-11s scored 230 for 0 declared, and how Worth replied with 35 all out. Jeremy Dowling, who coaches Worth, writes to me with a spirited defence of his lads: how they have, in fact, been improving steadily throughout the season. In their first match they were bowled out for 16, of which 12 were extras. As things got better they reached the dizzy heights of 124 for 9 and actually had the hubris to declare. (Sad to say, their opponents were up to the challenge.) But Worth did win a match this season. I sent a nail-biter against Leamington. They bowled out the opposition for 43, and made 44 for 9 in reply. I send my best wishes to Worth, in the knowledge that it is from the players like them, rather than the century-scoring openers of Cranleigh, that the Tewin irregulars of the future will spring.

The National Portrait Gallery is to take on its third cricketer. The first was W.G. Grace, the second that rather peculiar LP cover-style portrait of Ian Botham. Now they are about to give us the lordly Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, captain of the West Indies and a fair batsman to boot. The painter is William Bowyer, RA and former off-spinner, who was commissioned last year to paint Lord's during the bicentenary game. The picture has loads of cricketing exuberance, and not a little of Richards's disdain, as he whacks a ball contemptuously to leg. It is good to see that the gallery does not feel that sporting matters and sporting people are beneath intellectual contempt — good, too, to see a Caribbean cult hero in the gallery, not a class over-represented in official art.

BARRY FANTONI



"Remind me, does that mean they've got taste or they haven't?"

Lord's, famous for its long tradition of misogyny, has appointed a new assistant to the curator, Stephen Green — and she is unquestionably female. Her name is Glynis Williams, and she comes into the job armed with awesome scholarly qualifications. She took first-class honours in sports studies at Sheffield, and went on to take an M. Phil in the social development of sport, using cricket as a case study. When her grant ran out she wrote to the first-class counties asking about a job, and Lord's was smart enough to make her an offer. She was bitten by the cricket bug during the 1975 World Cup, and her historian's interest in the game followed.

Our sporting hooligans, I learn, are not a late 20th century phenomenon but heirs to a long and grand tradition. A gentleman named Denis Hayes writes to me quoting *English Literature Before Chaucer*, by Michael Swanton: "Despite regular ecclesiastical and at least sporadic legal prohibition, periods of prolonged peace might be enlivened by attendance at tournaments — not yet a leisurely series of individual jousts, but a mass melee which differed little from real war. There was little that a modern Englishman might recognize as 'fair play', let alone chivalry, with sides often unevenly matched and a high premium on low cunning. The stakes were high: large ransoms might be raised; at times the vanquished lost all they possessed, while those fatally wounded were, theoretically at least, denied a Christian burial. With a notoriously hooligan element present among the supporters, events were always liable to turn nasty."

Along with cricket, the baseball memorabilia market explodes. Its bedrock is that American institution, the bubblegum card of baseball's greats. Gary Sawatzki, a Detroit fan who makes his living from baseball junk, says: "Prices are getting so high that baseball cards are more for the speculators than the real fans who are now going for the oddball items. It's more for fun — you know, like cards used to be." Oddball items are things like hoodwinkers emblazoned with a player's face. At a recent sale, one chap bought a 57 cent milk carton portraying Carl Yastrzemski of the Boston Red Sox. It cost him \$25.

Elections can never make everybody happy. Yet, in the manner of a children's birthday party, the Kensington by-election offered some small reward to each of the serious participants.

The Conservatives held on to a marginal seat, keeping the anti-government swing down to 5.6 per cent, the lowest figure in any by-election since 1982. Labour came near to winning a constituency that has never been theirs. And they increased their vote by 4.8 per cent — an improvement they have exceeded in only three by-elections in 15 years.

The divided Alliance forces, despite their troubles, held on to nearly all the 17 per cent of the vote they secured in 1987. The Democrats, beating the Owenites by more than two to one, mildly advanced their claim to be the only serious third force. As for the Owenites, they just saved their deposit, and a two-to-one defeat by the Democrats does not mean an absolute end to their credibility.

The Greens, admittedly with a mere 572 votes, have the satisfaction of being the only party to see their vote increase in absolute numbers as well as in percentage, a real achievement considering there were ten other fringe candidates.

And the statisticians can be happy to point out that if there were to be a uniform nationwide

swing matching the movements in Kensington, there would be a hung Parliament: 318 Conservatives, 244 Labour, 14 Democrats, 1 SDP and 23 others.

However, a by-election which offers consolation to all can hardly offer a full triumph to any. In this odd constituency, crowded with inaccessible voters (or non-voters) the contest was unmemorable: the candidates were worthy but not outstanding and there were no serious gaffes. The media, taking the result for granted, sponsored no opinion polls (which, given the close outcome, might have raised some interest). Moreover, there were other, much bigger news stories running during the last fortnight.

But that does not mean that all is stable on the electoral scene. The Tories, it is true, are faring well in the polls. Not since 1960 has a government been ahead in Gallup's rating 13 months after winning a general election.

Yet 1960 offers a warning. In 1959, as in 1987, a Conservative

government had won a third successive victory. The disarray of a disappointed opposition and the growth of prosperity offered the Tories an easy course. Then the climate was transformed. In 1962 there came Orpington, the pay pause and the "night of the long knives": in 1963 there was de Gaulle's snub, the Profumo affair and the end of the Macmillan era. The Tories today may enjoy an enviable lead in the polls but in politics there can never be certainties.

Currently it is easy to paint an optimistic scenario for the Tories. Unemployment continues to fall, inflation stays under control. Prosperity increases. Labour fails to get its act together. And the Democrats, under the unexciting Alan Beth or the unreliable Paddy Ashdown, cannot see off the Owenite confusion and present themselves as a credible alternative, offering a challenge comparable to that after Crosby or Hillhead in 1980-82 or after Ryedale and Greenwich in 1986-87.

One often hears that the Labour Party, shackled to a cumbersome union movement, with so many of its activists

committed to socialist impossibilities, and with perpetual challenges to its leadership, can now never appeal to enough of prosperous middle Britain to gain a majority of seats. But after two general elections at its record low vote of 28 per cent and 31 per cent, Labour has now crept up to over 40 per cent in the polls despite all its recent troubles. There are grounds for scepticism but there is little in the present policy rethink to frighten ordinary people. If the leadership can hold steady and offer an impression of confidence and competence as it sees off its current challenges, it is quite conceivable that Labour will appear, a year or so hence, as a plausible potential government, ready to take full advantage of any Conservative slippage.

There are, however, a lot of "ifs" in that scenario. So, if Labour shows its customary skill in making the worst of its opportunities, is there any other alternative? The Democrats are probably

going to marginalize the Owenite SDP fairly soon (though Dr Owen, like Enoch Powell or Lloyd George, will be around for a long time as a brooding presence). Paddy Ashdown, should he become leader next week (which seems likely), may have the substance as well as the charisma to carry the party back to the high ground the Alliance seemed to hold, fleetingly, at several points in the last decade: a realistic escape from the Tory-Labour dualism. It may not be a very plausible scenario. Can it really ever be glad confident morning again? But dissatisfaction with those in power, if it develops, must find an outlet. And so a third-party breakthrough, at least to a balance-of-power situation, must remain a possibility.

Kensington hardly helps at all as we try to see forward to 1991. It leaves the odds much where they were: say, a 65 per cent likelihood of a fourth Conservative victory, a 20 per cent chance of a Labour win, and a 15 per cent chance of a hung Parliament. What is quite certain is that those probabilities, however realistic they may be today, will change as the months go by. Perhaps the next by-election will tell us more.

The author is a fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

David Butler seeks omens for 1991 in the by-election result

Kensington's hazy pointers

Lewis Lapham

Hail the faceless candidate

New York
In New York last spring, Christie's sold at auction, for \$26,400, an idea for a drawing. Not the drawing itself. Nothing so crass as an object or a design on paper, but the right to render the drawing in a space eight feet square. The buyer of the work in question, "Ten Thousand Lines Ten Inches Long, Covering a Wall Evenly", received a sales receipt and a set of instructions not unlike the page in a primary school colouring book inviting a child to connect the dots.

The buyer retained the right to choose the texture and placement of the wall — stucco, fibreboard, facing south, in the library, etc. — but it was strongly recommended that he hire (at his own considerable expense) the artist's own draftsman to draw the lines in their proper width and placement.

The artist, Sol LeWitt, expounded the thesis of conceptual art as long ago as 1969: "Ideas can be works of art — they are in a chain of development that may eventually find some form. All ideas need not be physical."

The observation is neither new nor profound. An unkind critic might go so far as to say that it was both fatuous and banal, on a par with the discovery that sailors have been known to die by drowning. But the unkind critic would miss the point and fail to appreciate LeWitt as a prophet. Within the span of a single generation LeWitt's minimalist aesthetic has come to define the character of post-modernist politics.

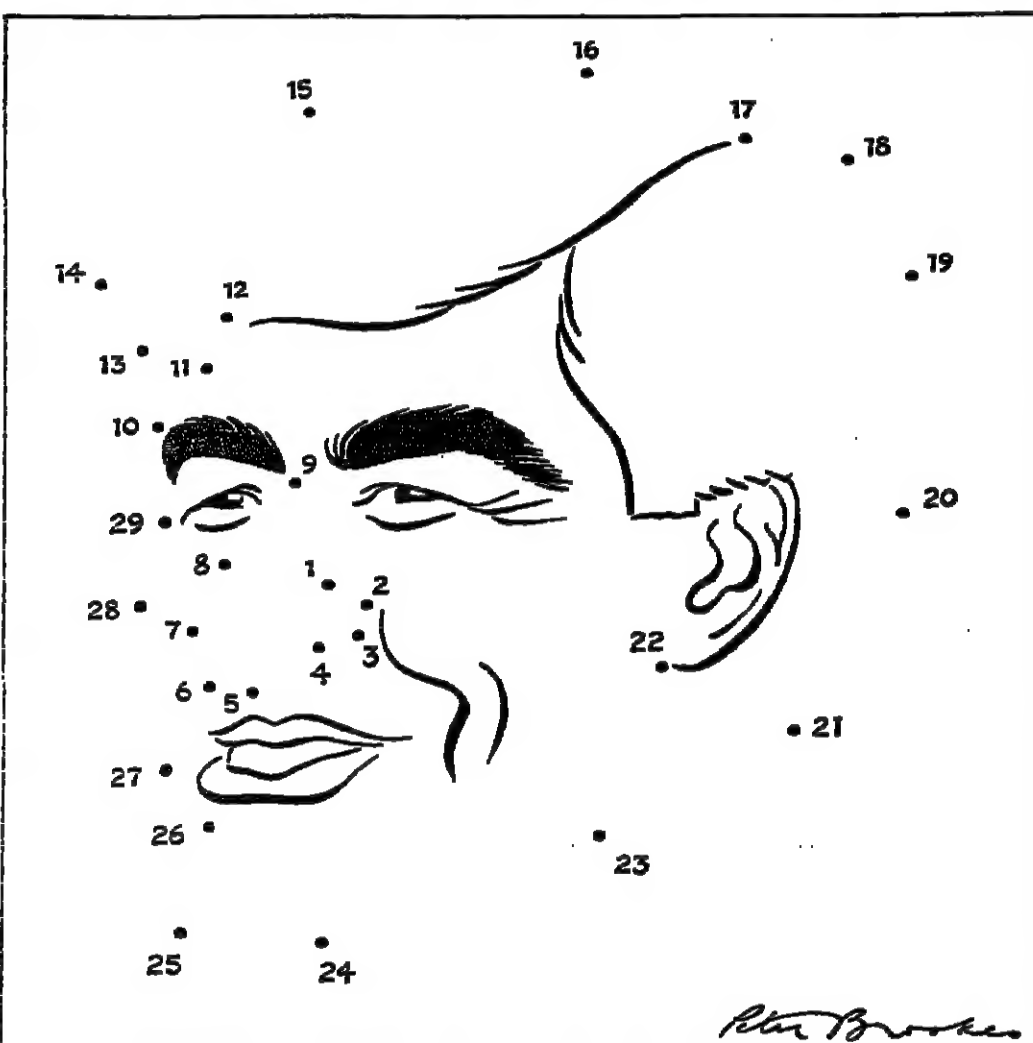
At about the same time that LeWitt announced the arrival of conceptual art, the national political conventions became empty spaces in which the media could stage their own romantic theories of politics. The politicians learned — much to their relief and delight — that they didn't have to say anything that might be confused with thought or meaning, and the media were left free to fill in the silences with whatever shows of patriotic cant could still excite the momentary interest of a bored electorate. Having bought the rights to render the conventions, the media could make ideas for drawings entitled "Ten Thou-

sand Images Ten Seconds Long, Covering a Screen Evenly".

The emphasis on pageantry reflects both the loss of audience and the current state of the American political argument. The argument has nothing to do with the question of justice or the idea of government. Because it is an argument about the awarding of money and privilege within the relatively small class of people that can buy access to the law, and because the Democratic and Republican parties so closely resemble each other in their allegiance to the imperatives of the national security state that only the columnists paid to do so can tell them apart, the larger American public no longer cares very much about the results of a presidential election.

Mindful of these difficulties, the Democratic Party has gone to considerable trouble to arrange matters in Atlanta for the convenience of the national media. Although the television networks have said that they will bestow only two hours of prime time on each of the convention's four nights, Atlanta expects upwards of 14,000 print and broadcast journalists to camp in the city next week — outnumbering the politicians three to one and estimated to spend, in five days, at least \$6 million on their travel expenses. All the best seats in the Omni Arena have been assigned to the media (i.e. to the ladies and gentlemen of the fourth estate expected to connect the dots), and the Democratic National Committee has allotted \$2 million for the stage design, the lights and the hiring of the paid entertainment.

As a further kindness the Democrats nominated the candidate who most closely approximates the minimalist *beau idéal* of a blank canvas. During the long months of the primary campaign, Michael Dukakis managed to say nothing that conceivably could be classified under the subversive headings of controversy. He reiterated his firm belief in the family and the flag, and he confined himself to only two maxims — "Good jobs at good wages," and "American know-how is back."



By nature an obliging bureaucrat — cautious, fluent in the idiom of empty abstraction, utterly lacking in conviction, the kind of man who could as easily administer a bank or a prison — Governor Dukakis can be relied upon to do and say whatever the media wish him to do and say. In short, the perfect candidate for a post-modernist politics of gesture and image.

Listening over the last few weeks to the preliminary speculations among the Democrats en route to Atlanta, I gather that the only substantive question likely to provoke the semblance of what used to be called a political debate is the one about the paid entertainment.

The avant-garde faction within the Democratic National

Committee has hired a Hollywood production team that thoroughly appreciates the genius of LeWitt. The producers have asked Barbara Streisand to sing (against a backdrop of a sentimental film montage) "The Star-Spangled Banner". They have also been in touch with Bill Cosby, Barry Manilow, Bruce Springsteen and a bird trainer who knows how to outfit 5,000 homing pigeons as "doves of peace".

The conservatives, among them Dukakis, apparently object to these theatrical effects as being too impious or too Republican. One functionary close to Dukakis was reported to have said something querulous about the callow disregard for "the speeches... the message..."

the hard news." Another functionary, even more indignant, said: "These guys want to set up a *Chez Democrat* nightclub instead of a convention."

The decision will probably rest with the networks. Will their cameras prefer Barbara Streisand and the doves, or will a news executive in New York get it into his or her head that maybe this year it might be fun to pretend that the convention is really about politics?

Aside from the question about the entertainment, I have yet to hear any of the travellers to Atlanta express anything other than a tactical interest in any question of domestic or foreign policy. Most of them assume that the Democrats will win the November election, and they

have already begun to inquire about house prices around Washington. Their insouciance inclines them to discount the problem of Jesse Jackson, the party's "conscience". Yes, they say, the man could make trouble, and yes, it's true that if he makes speeches outside the convention hall and mentions too loudly his policies (higher taxes on the rich, a much reduced arms budget, recognition of a Palestinian state, etc.) then his talent for attracting publicity could become an embarrassment.

Without a convincing percentage of the black vote, of course, the Democrats cannot win the White House, but for the moment none of the political seem alarmed. Nobody can imagine that Jackson cannot be bought off. The proposition is as unthinkable as nuclear war. Surely the man will accept the offer of a decent ransom; surely he must know that there will be enough patronage for everybody if only the division of the spoils can be kept safely out of sight.

Once that minor matter has been dismissed, usually within a matter of minutes, the political move on to the far more absorbing questions of their own self-esteem. Who is staying at the most important hotel (The Ritz Carlton, the Hyatt Regency) and who is going to the best parties? Who will go to Washington, and who will make the connections that lead to grants, consulancies and weapons contracts? Who will write the speeches and design the First Lady's dresses? Who will provide the new administration with the policy analyses and its line of intellectual dry goods?

Judging by the excitement of my informants, it is matters such as these that decide, if not the fate of nations, then certainly the trajectory of one's career, and if the Democratic convention is about nothing else (which it isn't) it still serves as a red, white and blue platform for the launching of the balloons of the triumphant American self.

The author is editor of Harper's magazine.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

A door open to some

Washington
In 1971 about 8,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Vienna with Israeli visas, and 96 per cent of them actually proceeded to Israel. Last year again, after some ups and some downs and some back ups, about 8,000 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union. But word had got out that once you made it to Vienna there was another option. Three quarters chose to settle in the US.

In a world with an estimated 11 million refugees, there is a battle going on for these few thousand bodies. Israel, hungry for Jews, feels these Russians are cheating when they obtain exit permits by proclaiming their love of Zion and then choose the easy life in America.

The United States government, and most American Jews, feel these people should not be forced to go to Israel. Allowing them free choice, writes *New York Times* columnist A.M. Rosenthal, is "a fulfillment of American principle."

Earlier this year the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, asked the United States to refuse refugee status to Soviet Jews with Israeli visas. When that idea got a stony response the Israelis began arranging for Soviet Jews to leave the USSR via Romania, where the only option will be Go Directly to Israel. Do Not Pass Go, Do Not Collect American Visa.

In response the State Department is asking the Soviet authorities to let Jews get American visas in Moscow, skipping

the whole Israeli visa charade. If that doesn't work, the State Department may allow Soviet Jews to retain their official status as refugees — and thus their right to resettle in the United States — despite a "temporary" stay in Israel.

Freedom of choice about where to live surely is a fundamental American principle. Unfortunately, despite the words printed on the Statue of Liberty ("Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses" etc.), it is a principle that is dishonoured more often than not in our refugee and immigration policy. The United States has the most generous admissions policy of any nation in the world; but even so, it excludes far more people than it admits.

In some ways the American obsession with Soviet Jews — especially the obsession with making sure they can come to the United States — mocks our principles more than it honours them. While Israel's rather brutal effort to recruit Jews against their will deserves no special sympathy, the fact that a free and democratic country is eager to take in these people ought to count for a lot when we are turning so many others away.

Contrast the situation of Soviet Armenians. They also are getting exit permits in large numbers. Ten thousand have come to the United States since last autumn. But our embassy in Moscow has suddenly stopped issuing refugee visas, ostensibly because its budget is exhausted.

Dozens of Armenians are now stranded in Moscow, after quitting their jobs and shutting off their previous lives by the very act of applying to leave.

The State Department believes that most of these Armenians are not entitled to enter the United States as refugees anyway. The law says that to qualify as a refugee you must be motivated by "a well-founded fear of persecution" in your native country. Otherwise you have to apply for immigration through the normal channels, a lengthy and usually futile procedure.

The State Department believes these Armenians really want to come here for the same reason any sane person would rather live in the United States than in the Soviet Union: a better life. Unfortunately, that's not good enough.

Although Soviet Jews face specific ethnic and religious oppression that Soviet Armenians do not, those who come to the United States are, by and large, not religious and many are not, especially ethnic. Their motive is the same mundane but profound one as the Armenians'. But in this case there is no close examination of their motive. And whatever their motive for leaving the Soviet Union, "a well-founded fear of persecution" cannot be their motive for not wishing to live in Israel.

Then there are the Vietnamese boat people, another tide that is rising again this year. The Hong Kong government recently an-

nounced that it will isolate future boat people in a former leper colony on a small rocky island, will deny them access to any relief agencies, and will send almost all of them back to Vietnam. Malaysia has adopted similar measures. Thailand has gone further, pushing boat people back out to sea and letting them drown. (Now it claims to fix the boats first.)

On his recent visit to Asia the US Secretary of State, George Shultz, endorsed the idea of sending boat people back to Vietnam. It's "hard" not to take people in, he said, but "you have to jack yourself up and say you're just not going to do it."

The distinction between political and economic motives is false on several levels. The US assumes political motives in some cases (Soviet Jews) but not in others. Most refugees' motives are, in fact, mixed. And why not? Economic and political elements are equal parts of the American dream. In any event, economic motives are no less respectable than political ones. Would you rather be a Vietnamese peasant or a Soviet Jew? A Vietnamese peasant or an Israeli Jew?

We can't let in everybody, they say, and maybe that's true, though I think we could let in a lot more than we do. But with all the people in the world whom nobody wants, why is the United States fighting over the few whom somebody else wants desperately? The author is editor of *New Republic*.

JULY 16 ON THIS DAY 1929

The Dorchester Hotel is a solidly built edifice designed by William Curtis Green (1876-1960). It was opened, as *The London Encyclopaedia* remarks, "with a flourish" in 1931. After six years the Gordon Hotel's stake was bought by the McAlpine family who remained in control until 1976, when the hotel was sold to an Arab consortium for £9 million. Since 1985 it has been owned by the Sultan of Brunei.

DORCHESTER HOUSE HOTEL TO BE BUILT ON SITE

Lord Morley has sold Dorchester House, Park-lane. A contract was signed yesterday afternoon for the purchase of the property by the Gordon Hotels, Limited, associated in the transaction of purchase being Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons, Limited.

The famous mansion will be demolished and the Gordon Hotel, Limited, intend to proceed at once with the erection of an hotel which shall rank as the finest in Europe. The May Fair Hotel, though of quite recent erection, has already been found insufficient to meet the demands for first-rate accommodation in Mayfair. The new hotel, which is hoped will be completed and opened early in 1931, is to be sited on the lines of the May Fair Hotel.

The signatures of the contract and the payment of the deposit definitely put an end to a period of doubt and persistent rumour

regarding the great Park-lane mansion. For some months it has been in the hands of Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. (Mortgagees) for sale, and various schemes have been proposed for the future of the property.

Dorchester House site is of nearly 80,000 square feet, and the mansion is 105 feet wide by 135 feet at the side, the total area of the property being almost two acres. It is freehold and free from any restrictions, except as to a very small piece subject to a lease of that in which the Marquess of Hertford died in 1842. It was designed by Lewis Vulliamy for Mr. R.S. Holford, who required a structure worthy in permanence and ornamentation of his famous collection of old masters and first editions.

The external walls, four feet in thickness, are of stone dovetailed with slate, and the house is faced with Portland stone and has a boldly carved cornice composed of stones averaging eight feet square. Lewis Vulliamy followed to some extent the design of the Roman Villa of Farnesina, famous for frescoes by Peruzzi and Raphael. The upper storey of Villa Farnesina is contrived in the ornamental frieze, in which windows are inserted, and Vulliamy adopted the idea at Dorchester House. The interior decoration includes mantelpieces and other work by Alfred Stevens, ceilings painted by Angeli, and a dome decorated by Sir Coutts Lindsay, as well as elaborate colour scheme in marble, granite and alabaster. The reception rooms are lofty and spacious, the staircase hall is stately, with pink granite pillars, and there are more than 40 bedrooms. Dorchester House took many years to build.

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 2

Idol moments on top of the world

The Raj and the hippies have come and gone – but does Kathmandu still cast a spell? Andrew Powell reports

Although in the imagination of the armchair traveller nowhere is more remote than Timbuctoo, another, strangely similar placename encapsulates the most exotic, mysterious and alluring aspects of Abroad. Kipling put it succinctly: "And the wildest dreams of Kew/Are the fact of Kathmandu."

Actually in Kipling's day the facts were extremely difficult to ascertain. Even when the British were most energetically shouldering the white man's burden, Kathmandu was off-limits. A few senior diplomats were allowed to go there, but the rank and file of the Indian Civil Service sweating it out on the plains could only speculate as to what went on over the ridge of the inviting green hills 50 miles to the north.

Within 20 years of the Raj returning home to Whitehall and to barracks, Kathmandu had become notorious. It was the terminus of the overland route from Europe to the east, the hippy capital of the world, a city globally famous for its remarkably modest cost of living, and the ready availability of marijuana. Another couple of decades having drifted past, what can today's visitor expect from Kathmandu? Is it still a city capable of sustaining the fantasy which its uniquely evocative name has long inspired?

I first went there in 1981 and have been back seven or eight times since. Quite unintentionally I appear to have fallen into a habit. As soon as conveniently possible after backing my way through some of the world's most irritating immigration and customs procedures, I take a taxi to Swayambunath, a hill on the western outskirts of town. From the parapet of the Buddhist monastery perched on the top, the landscape of the Kathmandu valley is spread out like a vast model constructed for the benefit of students of Himalayan geography. In autumn and winter when the air is clear, you can often see for about 100 miles. Immediately to the south, the forested Mahabharat hills block what would otherwise be a view of the Nepalese lowlands and the Indian plains. To the north and east, however, the glistening snow peaks of the Ganesh Himal and, in

the far distance, the Everest region of Khumbu float in the sky like curiously angular clouds.

The Kathmandu valley itself is a fertile puddle lying at an altitude of 4,500 feet between the foothills and the Great Himalayas. Until the 18th century there were three independent kingdoms in the valley. Bhaktapur, Patan and Kathmandu itself. Rather in the manner of Florence and Siena, these city-states developed as rivals, expressing their conflicting ambitions and egos chiefly in architecture, with occasional lapses into actual fighting. It was not until 1768 that a bellicose king from outside the valley unified the territory by conquest and invented the concept of the Nepalese state.

From Swayambunath, the three separate clumps of palaces and pagodas are still clearly visible, each grouped around its Durbar Square (Kathmandu's equivalent to the piazza). It is this unique architectural heritage, on which Unesco to its credit has lavished much time and money, that most of today's tourists come to see. Despite the numbers of foreign visitors who now daily do the rounds, strolling from courtyard to courtyard remains a remarkably enjoyable way to spend two or three days, the pleasure being diminished only by the absence of an adequate guidebook. There is in fact a glut of books on Kathmandu, but these may be

divided loosely into two categories: those which tell you where to eat lunch for less than 20p, and those which provide you with endless photographs of the building you are standing in front of, while giving you only titbits of information about who built it, of what, when, why and for whom.

Gazing down on Kathmandu from a privileged position 500 feet above the mayhem of the streets, it is not too difficult to believe that this is still the exotic forbidden kingdom of 50 years ago. During my visits, however, I have watched gloomily as concrete inexorably asserted itself on the skylines of the ancient cities. Kathmandu and Patan are now joined by a hideous, ill-planned sprawl, and even from the serene height of Swayambunath it is impossible not to notice how rapidly the suburbs are flooding over the green of the ricefields.

The truth is that Kathmandu is in the grip of a particularly cruel dilemma. Its population is rising rapidly (magnified by steady immigration from the poor, mountainous areas), but as the city expands it is consuming the best agricultural land in Nepal. Add to this a chronic pollution problem caused by the thousands of ramshackle cars and lorries with which the city is nowadays choked, and one is obliged, regretfully, to concede that during the past decade the atmosphere of Shangri-la has vanished for ever.

Being in love with the Kathmandu valley, however, I am

reluctant to relinquish the romantic illusion – and happily it is not strictly necessary. I was talking recently to a visiting American Fulbright professor at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan University who, besides bewailing a variety of recent changes for the worse, pointed out that all is not yet lost. Most weekends, he said, he and his wife hired a taxi to the edge of the valley, telling the driver to pick them up in the late afternoon at a pre-arranged location, a few hours' leisurely walk away.

The purpose of such rambles was, he explained, to rediscover the timeless atmosphere which, away from the urban areas, remains entirely undiminished.

Earlier this year I, too, took a car to Nagarkot, a cluster of houses on a ridge 45 minutes to the east of Kathmandu. After only a quarter of an hour we passed through Thimi, a settlement traditionally renowned for its pottery. The side of the road was littered with what looked like the salvaged cargo of a wrecked trirème: thousands of old jars and water pitchers were spilling out of packing cases into the gutter, ample proof that the village's ancient speciality had survived intact. As the road wound steadily upwards through rice terraces being ploughed by teams of sleek and corpulent oxen, I realized, abruptly, that the 20th century had melted away. There was nothing in the landscape which could not have been there 200 years before.

Nagarkot is still the best place in the world for a picnic on a sunny day. From the grassy meadows on the north face of the hill there is an uninterrupted panorama of 200 miles of mountains, from Annapurna in the west to the insignificant outline of Everest on the eastern horizon.

Three hours' walk downhill through the fields brought me to the exquisite Hindu temple of Changu Naryan, its precincts unoccupied apart from two cows patiently chewing a pile of straw. A further 40 minutes' walk, much of the way beside a stream, and I was back on the road to the city of Bhaktapur where my taxi was waiting, its driver asleep on the back seat.

TRAVEL NOTES

Most of the major tour operators include Kathmandu and Nepal in their brochures. However, none can rival the experience of ExplorAsia, 13 Chapter Street, London SW1 (01-630 7102), the UK agents for both the famous Tiger Tops jungle lodge and Mountain Travel, the leading trekking/mountaineering company in the Himalayas. The appearance and character of the Kathmandu valley are transformed by the changing

seasons. The best months are October and November when the air is clear and the countryside green and blooming after the monsoon. December to February are also good. April, May and June are generally to be avoided. Nepal is not a good place to take chances with your health: there is a great deal of hepatitis and typhoid, and fairly frequent cases of meningitis. It is necessary to be exceptionally careful with drinking water.



Beauty and the beast: street scene in Patan, one of the three ancient kingdoms of the Kathmandu valley

Here today, and here tomorrow

How will Britain's airports cope with a summer of air controllers' strikes?

Information is the scarcest commodity in the continuing flight chaos. With Greek and French air traffic managers said to be taking their telephones off the hook, airline operators trying to re-arrange disrupted schedules are as frustrated as their long-delayed passengers. Lack of information about what is happening is the complaint on every side.

How waiting holidaymakers fared during this week's Greek air traffic controllers' dispute, which ended on Wednesday, gives some indication of who will suffer least (and who will suffer most) distress in the continued disruption.

Holiday flights to the United States have been virtually unaffected by European air traffic problems. So those who chose Florida and California this summer can expect no more than ordinary operational delays (engine problems, etc) and the small

discomfort of elbowing their way through, or stepping over, less fortunate passengers.

Heathrow passengers have fared better than most. The longest delay during the Greek dispute was 90 minutes, a sharp contrast with Gatwick, where there were delays just short of 48 hours.

Of those flying from Gatwick, passengers leaving from the new North Terminal have had far more space to stretch out, and shorter queues for food, drink and lavatories than their less fortunate fellows sleeping on the bare floor of the old terminal building. The North Terminal is used exclusively by British Airways and Caledonian flights. Those taking British Airways Holidays (Enterprise, Sovereign, Flair, and Martin Rook) and other operators using BA Gatwick flights will wait in comfort.

Some airlines are more efficient than others at the



Terminal boredom: passengers find that sleep is the best way to pass the time at Gatwick, where some flights have been delayed by almost two days

complicated procedures involved in obtaining slots. Others, tightly staffed, are running out of crews fit to fly as the knock-on effects of delays disrupt duty rosters. At mid-morning yesterday British Island Airways had more flight delays on Gatwick's departure board than any other airline.

Some tour companies are treating stranded holidaymakers better than others. The most obvious cause of friction occurs when one flight has passengers from several different tour operators, each of which treats its clients differently in the provision of meals and compensation.

Typically, a delay of 24 hours or more entitles passengers to a cancellation with their money back, or compensation of about £20 with increments every 12 hours, on top of any meals and accommodation offered. But not all insurance policies include flight delay compensation so it is wise to check insurance documents and brochure booking conditions before leaving. And don't expect a cash handout even if a long delay creates an entitlement. A cheque in the post is more likely.

Shona Crawford Poole

BELFAST
Three to four midweek flights on average, 30 at weekends. Around 550 passengers on summer weekdays, up to 4,200 at weekends. Longest delay last Tuesday 31 hours on a flight to Greece. 150 passengers spent Tuesday night at the airport.

Delay provision: all-night catering, extra night heating, blankets, TV sets, a mini cinema for children, extra cleaning. Extra nappies and baby food in the shops.

BRISTOL
Average midweek summer flights 15 to 20 a day, taking up to 1,500 passengers. On Tuesday there was a 43-hour delay on a flight to Corfu. On Wednesday two planes were delayed, the longest for 18 hours; 88 passengers slept at the airport on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Delay provision: all-night catering, video, children's entertainers, extra seats, blankets and additional cleaning.

EAST MIDLANDS
Average midweek summer

flights 12 to 15, taking 1,700 to 2,100 passengers. Two Greek flights were delayed on Tuesday, one for 21 hours, the other 25 hours. On Wednesday, four planes were delayed, the longest for 15 hours. Most tour operators took passengers to hotels, but 130 from a delayed Rimini flight slept at the airport.

Delay provision: 24-hour catering and shop, blankets, play packs and entertainers for children, plus TV sets, extra cleaning and extra seats.

GATWICK
Average midweek summer passengers 65,000, rising to 80,000 at weekends. On Tuesday and Wednesday up to 3,000 stranded passengers slept in the airport each night. The longest delays reached almost 48 hours.

Delay provision: extra seating, catering, cleaning and information displays.

GLASGOW
Average 40 international departures on summer weekdays, with about 6,400 passengers. No delays on Tuesday, two on Wednesday. The worst was 22 hours. Between 300 and 400 passengers slept at the airport on Wednesday night.

Delay provision: extra seating, all-night catering, blankets, extra cleaning, video, children's entertainer.

HEATHROW
About 100,000 passengers on average summer day. Longest

delay caused by the Greek air traffic dispute was 90 minutes. No one slept at the airport.

Delay provision: increased catering, cleaning and seating. Fog is the most likely cause for delay.

LUTON
Average of 60 departures daily in summer, taking around 7,000 passengers. Around 50 flights were delayed last Tuesday and Wednesday, the longest 32 hours. Between 500 and 600 passengers slept at the airport on both nights.

Delay provision: additional seating, TVs, blankets and entertainers in addition to the children's play area always available.

MANCHESTER
About 140 international daily departures in summer, carrying 27,000 passengers (15,000 of them on charter flights). On Tuesday two flights were delayed, one for 53 hours, another for 48. Six were delayed on Wednesday, three for over 24 hours. About 1,000 passengers slept at the airport on each night.

Delay provision: creche, round-the-clock cleaning and catering, live entertainment for children, TVs and videos. Despite hundreds of extra chairs some people had to sleep on the floor.

NEWCASTLE
Average 60 international departures daily at this time of year, carrying up to 10,000

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THE ARTS

The sedate world of publishing is heading for a punch-up over protectionism, Chris Peachment reports

Gentlemen at arms

Aside from the late Jamie Hamilton, who founded the house of Hamish Hamilton, publishers are not noted for their pugilistic skills. There is, however, a scrap looming in the once-gentlemanly profession. In the red corner, I give you Terry Maher, head of the Pentos group which runs the Dillons and Athena chain of bookshops, and exponent of the Muhammad Ali-mouth approach. He is seconded, albeit sporadically, by Tim Waterstone, head of the Waterstone bookshops. And in the blue corner... just about everyone else in the book trade. The title over which they are fighting is the Net Book Agreement.

In these free-market times, it is surprising that, aside from a few particular pharmaceuticals, books are the only product left for which there exists a retail price maintenance agreement. In 1962 the Publishers' Association applied to the Government for exemption from the Restrictive Practices Act. The fact that they gained their exemption would seem to indicate the sensible recognition that books are somehow different. No one these days stresses the old argument that they are cultural as well as commercial products for fear of sounding stuffy, but one suspects that was at least part of the reasoning. Besides, books do furnish a room.

Last May, Maher put the cat among the pigeons when he addressed the Booksellers Conference in Bournemouth and called for the abolition of the NBA. He laid into the inefficiency of booksellers in relation to other retailers (it takes 48 hours or less to order a record, anything between 14 and 34 days for a book), the under-exploited market (five million households in this country never buy a book), the cumbersome system of sale or return, which can take nine months of paperwork to clear, and the general elitist state of publishing. And all of this, he claims, to a unique system of price control.

"All publishers and booksellers claim that NBA is in the best interests of the public," Maher says. "It is fairly hypocritical the way they keep advancing this argument." It should be stressed that his marketing credentials seem impressive: the flagship branch of Dillons in Gower Street, which was given a £2 million refurbishment two years ago, has



Fighting talk: Terry Maher says his opponents are being hypocritical in trying to keep the agreement alive

expanded its sales from £6.5 million to £13.5 million, and his regional branches are all prospering. So what is wrong with wanting to bring cheaper books to the punters?

"One hell of a lot," replies almost everybody else. "He says it stifles competition — that is nonsense," says Tim Godfrey of the Booksellers' Association. "These are lively times and there is already cut-throat competition for the market share. One doesn't want another factor."

The main general argument, voiced by even the more successful chain booksellers such as Richard Joseph, of Books Etc., is that while a few best-sellers in the window will be sold at a couple of pounds off, this will mean a decrease in overall profit for the year, and therefore the price of the dependable back list of books, and the more specialized volumes at the rear of the shop, will be raised to compensate. Joseph's experience in his home country of South Africa, which has no NBA, has convinced him of this. "Non-

The debate is over as far as I'm concerned. Pentos is going to be the first company to break the agreement."

sense," says Maher, "because you will be selling more of the best-sellers and therefore increasing your profit."

All of the arguments, however, are to some extent moot, since no one can exactly predict what the future would hold. Practitioners in the trade look to the foreign examples of NBA to bolster their arguments for or against. Perhaps the one case most strongly in favour of retention is that of the French. The finance minister abolished their NBA some years ago, and the effect was disastrous, with hundreds of small shops putting up the shutters. When Jack Lang was recently returned as Minister of Culture he restored the NBA, to general approval.

Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, managing director of Hamish Hamilton and a man who has been converted from his abolitionist position to being a fervent supporter of the NBA, is more worried about a general polarization of the market. "The pressures on us to make more money would force us to produce fewer first-time novels, and limit our children's list, for example. One looks in some horror to America, where there is a total concentration on best-sellers to the exclusion of all else. I am greatly in favour of the new Waterstone chain, which is the best thing that has happened in ages, but a price war will also mean the death of many small bookshops."

Indeed, Stephen Du Sautoy, who runs the New Saxon Bookshop in Bury St Edmunds, admits to worries: "If the local Tesco is selling the latest Graham Greene half price, then I can hardly blame my loyal customers if they decide to go there to buy it. It is a fact that 50 per cent of customers don't find what they

want when they come in, but browse a while and leave with something else. One answer would be to specialize more, but we do that already." Bruce Coward, of the Harbour Bookshop, Dartmouth, confirms that life would prove "very rocky. The local supermarket would have the top 20 best sellers at the checkout."

Perhaps the clincher for the forces of retention is that W.H. Smith, whom everyone is agreed would be the one chain which would stand to benefit enormously from the disappearance of NBA, are solidly behind it. "If it were to go, we would respond very actively indeed," says managing director Malcolm Field, and one can hear the clang of cash registers behind his no-nonsense statement. "But we are in favour of keeping it because there is no question that the customer will not be the beneficiary."

Waterstone is more ambivalent, since he views the NBA's retention as "frankly, dishonest. Times have changed vastly since 1962. We now have book clubs offering cut-price books, for example. It is true that small independents may close down, but that would simply be an acceleration of a present trend. I will not be the first to break it, but I'll be delighted if it goes."

It should be said, finally, that many publishers are, off the record, resigned to the fact that the NBA will probably eventually disappear. Their reticence is primarily a desire to keep the bookshops with whom they have a special relationship happy.

So who will make the first move? "As far as I am concerned," says Maher, "the debate is over. It has all been very, very costly, but now things will change. And Pentos will be the first to break the agreement." Fighting talk, all right, although he does not mention when, where or how.

When he does try his Sunday punch, he will be up against the considerable clout of Clive Bradley, of the Publishers' Association. "If a bookseller defies the law," Bradley says, "then we would have no choice but to enforce it through the courts." Possibly a test case might come about.

Let's have a nice clean fight, gentlemen, no head butting, nothing below the belt. Come out fighting, and may the best man win.

Playing it by numbers

Michael Jackson Wembley Stadium

When Michael Jackson's record producer, Quincy Jones, was asked which performers had most impressed his client, he responded without hesitation: James Brown, Walt Disney, Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. That odd mix of influences was clearly discernible on the first of an incredible seven-night run at Wembley Stadium.

Although the music was played to perfection it might just as well have been pre-recorded for all that was visible of the musicians for most of the time. Occasionally a peacock-haired guitarist or frantically slapping bassist would leap to the front for a set-piece appearance, but the great majority of the show was given over to the slickly choreographed song and dance routines performed by the 29-year-old Jackson and his troupe of four backing singers and four dancers.

Their arrival at the start was heralded by a huge bank of lights lifting from the foot of the stage like a spacecraft preparing for take-off. Jackson, his slight figure clad in black and festooned with awkward bits of silver and chain, looked like a combination of gladiator and rag-doll as he launched into "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'", while performing the meticulous angular movements and sharp pelvic thrusts that comprise his much imitated dance steps.

A rapid fire medley of "the old songs played the old fashioned way", which included "Give Me One More Chance" and "I'll Be There", was a reminder of his early days as a child star with the Jackson Five.

His mis-spent youth watching performers from the wings of theatres on the American "Chitlin' circuit" remains the key to his modern performance style. As he observes in his autobiography, "some musicians — Springsteen and U2 for example — may feel they got their education from the streets. I'm a performer at heart. I got mine from the stage."

His old stage's sense of timing rarely let him down as he swept through a series of glittering set pieces, to the delight of his fans: fedora hats and a gunfight at the end of "Smooth Criminal", the werewolf head and ghoul costumes for "Thriller" and even a



Jackson: an absence of adventure

David Sinclair puts a question mark over the reputation of a living legend

grand illusion just before "Beat It" when he was hoisted aloft in a covered cage, disappeared in a puff of smoke. He was then lifted on the platform of a cherry-picker crane out above the heads of the audience.

However, the glorious pizzazz and restless energetic bustle of the show did not entirely conceal the absence of musical adventure or sense of inquiry in Jackson's electro-pop, which sometimes sounds as if it has been written by numbers. The idea that he is universally popular is something of a myth. He only registered in *Rolling Stone* magazine's 1987 readers' poll in the categories of Worst Male Singer, Hype of the Year, Worst Video ("Bad"), Worst Album Cover ("Bad"), Most Unwelcome Comeback and Worst-dressed Male Rock Artist, all of which he won hands down.

Try telling that to the 72,000 fans who jumped, cheered, squealed and waved as he went into the "I Love You London" bit assisted by a gathering of children, led by his 10-year-old touring companion Jimmy Safechuck.

Tarkovsky revisited

OPERA

Boris Godunov Covent Garden

Time's great pendulum swings once again: for the first time since the death of Andrei Tarkovsky, his production of *Boris Godunov* has returned to the Royal Opera. That huge, slow pendulum, the vast descending bell, the flash of a bayonet: these are images which remain as potent as ever in Tarkovsky's dark, iconic Russia.

Shafis of light focus on the individual within the corporate human agony, like the eye of a camera selecting what we must see and how we must see it. But Tarkovsky's attuning of eye and ear was so apposite that our total vision is extended; and Irina Brown and Stephen Lawless, who have rehearsed this revival, are faithful to his memory.

But it is reminiscence, not recreation, which is now the order of the day. Partly, I suspect, because it is end of term and everyone is tired, but mainly because James Conlon, in the pit, seldom rises above clarity and carefulness; this revival is high on the visual but low on the vision. No-one could truthfully say that it had the creative energy to act on the soul; and Tarkovsky himself demanded no less.

At one end of the scale, the chorus are more weary and ragged than even their historical role requires; at the other end, Robert Lloyd, the original Boris of 1983, clearly misses the stimulus of a



Sua support: Boris Godunov (Robert Lloyd) and Feodor (Fiona Kimm)

Tarkovsky as mentor. His performance is carefully paced, minutely observed, but the voice itself fails to expand to search out the Tsar's complexity and greatness of heart.

For a true kindling of response one has to look to the Dimitri of Vladimir Popov, making his British debut. One of the Bolshoi's principal tenors, now living in the United States, Popov's laser-beam of a voice puts his performance in a different dimension: thrilling in isolation, but somewhat disorienting in the company of less inspired colleagues.

Robert Tear's Shuisky returns from the 1985 revival nicely fusing sinuous phrasing with knife-like body movement. It is an efficient, if not chilling performance. Similarly, Gwynne Howell's Pimen, from the original cast,

is benevolent if not authoritative. An untimely knee operation deprived us of a Polish Marina, though Stefania Toczyska is due to take over the tiara for the last two performances. It would, perhaps, be unfair to carp at Eva Randova's obsession with the prompt box.

The casting of the minor parts provides some distraction from the *longueurs* which surface when the spiritual sap of the production is at low ebb.

Linda Kitchen is a poignant Xenia; Fiona Kimm returns as an ardent Fyodor; and Robin Leggate, searingly eloquent as the hooded Simpleton, provides one of the most resonant images of the entire evening.

Hilary Finch

Catcher of dreams

TELEVISION

Artists with no memory and no sense of their own work are not ideal subjects for television profiles. Leonard Cohen, poet, singer, articulator of the self-conscious worries of the Seventies, has neither. He cannot remember much of his past, cannot remember where he wrote most of his songs, has no idea whether his music is more important than his poetry.

Fortunately Bob Portway's profile of Cohen for *Omnibus* (BBC1) had other evidence to draw on, right back to home film of Cohen's childhood in the family clothing business in Montreal and footage of his fringe existence as a Sixties poet.

We had Judy Collins, recalling Cohen's New York debut concert when he stopped in the middle of a song and left the stage ("they loved it... it was very avant-garde to do that") and conjuring up the enviable closeness of their relationship ("We have been in some extremely intimate situations... never as lovers"). There was one long sequence based on Cohen's song "Chelsea Hotel No 2" about his encounter with Janis Joplin in the elevator of that famous New York hostel (I wonder

what would have happened if he had met Virgil Thomson there instead) and a nostalgic trip back to the Greek island of Hydra where he lived — or hung out — for a decade with the wife of someone he noticed walking down the street.

Life seems as hazy and random to Cohen personally as it does in his songs. His past is, as he put it, infinitely wide and without direction. He has never been as successful in American and Britain as in Europe. The attraction of his work cannot be the splendour of his voice — as Cohen's lawyer once said to him, if you want to hear singing then go to the Metropolitan Opera. It must be the way in which, with his drool, his stoop, and his world weariness, Cohen caught a fragment of the decaying American dream (did Dustin Hoffman close him or was it the other way round?). I would have welcomed more to put Cohen's poetry in context. Cohen's mythologies matched those of an American generation, but while that generation has now turned into lawyers and accountants, Cohen still pursues his lonely way. Acceptance, one felt, would be the worst thing that could happen to him.

William Holmes

Victory for Ogdon

RECITAL

John Ogdon Queen Elizabeth Hall

One attends a performance of Kaikhosru Sorabji's *Opus Clavibambalisticum*, as someone once remarked in a similar context, because it is there. The gargantuan piano work, written in 1930 by the Chingford-born recluse, who is 96 next month, may have few moments of conventional keyboard beauty, and a great deal that is too grindingly cerebral to be emotionally involving.

But its huge build-ups of clanging sonorities, its vast length (215 minutes in John Ogdon's stupendous performance last night), its relentless structural complexity and the four-stave strain it places on any pianist's technique and stamina, have all tended to sustain the work's almost mystical aura of ultimate challenge. Sorabji's 40-year ban on all performances of his music (until 1976) has, if anything, intensified that.

The piece emulates Bach's *Art of Fugue* in its multiplicity of formal schemes, if not in the quality of its thematic material. Fugues that seem to be heading for a massive

peroration, then start again from a completely different angle, canons going forwards, backwards, augmented and diminished; a theme with 49 variations; a passacaglia with 81 — this is the stuff of its 12 mighty movements.

Moreover, Sorabji often seems to add purely ornamental material on top of the ferocious contrapuntal ingenuities. Consequently, the harmonic profile (a free-wheeling polytonality) is at saturation point nearly all the time. Rhythmic inventiveness, on the other hand, is not so evident (at least until the manic final "surreta"), and if the work has a trace of humour it escaped me.

John Ogdon, giving the first complete performance in England (in a Park Lane Group presentation) was simply astonishing. Extract any 10-minute segment from the work and you could find enough technical improbabilities to dissuade any average virtuoso from performance. Ogdon conquered them, one after another, with magnificent resource and sheer guts — the epic choral cascades, the frenetic chromatic lines racing five ways simultaneously, the complex chains of emphasis needed to make even partial sense of the fugues. Finally, a somewhat stunned audience rose in euphoric acclaim.

Richard Morrison

The man who sits outside

Brubeck is back in London tonight, but still he is not accepted by purists

There are two undisputed facts about the music of Dave Brubeck — its massive commercial impact in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the near-unanimous scorn generated in critical circles.

The case for the prosecution was straightforward enough: Brubeck was deemed a second-rate composer who simply could not swing. Benny Green summarized the charges in 1961, the year that "Take Five" sprang into the pop charts. "There is about his playing," he wrote, "a certain ineptitude of phrase which is really astonishing in one so highly regarded, and, most significantly, it is an ineptitude which one usually finds in musicians whose hearts are not really in jazz at all..."

A quarter of a century later, as he rests in his hotel room in Paris, Brubeck still seems bemused by the onslaught. "They've criticized just about everyone I've loved the most — people such as Tatum, Ellington and Miles — have been the people who've been most encouraging to me."

In a sense, Brubeck was a victim of his own success: the jazz fraternity tends to be suspicious of artists with popular appeal. With the more entrenched racial divisions of the 1950s, there was, too, resentment that Brubeck — classically-trained and middle-class — was being fêted at the expense of more deserving black composers.

Whatever the shortcomings of his block chord technique or his recent groups, his early quartets, propelled by the alto saxophonist Paul Desmond, certainly produced some marvelous interplay. The 1953 concert at Oberlin College and the College of the Pacific, currently available on compact disc, do much to put the arguments in perspective.

For many of his detractors, however, the success of the album *Time Out* and the 5/4 curiosity "Take Five" (actually composed by Paul Desmond) was the final betrayal. Brubeck's critical stock never quite recovered. "The people who accused us of commercialism don't realise that *Time Out* was an experimental album," Brubeck says.

Much of the inspiration for the different time signatures, he explains, came from meeting mu-



Brubeck: a victim of his success

sicians in India and Turkey — hence "Blue Rondo à la Turk". For many non-Americans, the quarter offered a chance to hear jazz for the first time.

The process continued last year when Brubeck made his debut in the Soviet Union, an event celebrated on the album *Moscow Nights*, released next month.

The pianist's classic era came to an end when he parted with Desmond in 1967. Since then, apart from a partnership with Gerry Mulligan and a reunion with Desmond (who was to die in 1977), he has increasingly concentrated on orchestral composition, mainly on religious themes. The critical reception for these works has been even frostier than for his jazz.

Still touring on the jazz circuit at 67, he calculates that he gives about 100 concerts each year. His current band includes his son, Chris, on trombone and electric bass, and the clarinetist Bill Smith, a member of the Brubeck Octet of 1947.

As he reminisces about critics in those early days, he recalls a West Coast tour with Charlie Parker, the giant always regarded as the antithesis of Brubeck conventionality. "There's an old interview with Charlie Parker that you should look up. When my name is mentioned, he says: 'Brubeck's a perfectionist — like I am.' I like that."

Clive Davis

● The Dave Brubeck Quartet appears at the JVC/Capital Jazz Parade, Royal Festival Hall, tonight and at the English Riviera Centre, Torquay, tomorrow.

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
A Dutch Director Peter Schaufuss

LONDON COLISEUM

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THE WEEK AHEAD



GALLERIES

NAKED LIGHTS: Bernard Dunstan paints in that traditional style against which many younger artists have reacted. His subjects are conventional ones such as nudes in interiors, and his imagination is fired by fleeting nuances of light and colour. Approaching 70, he is a senior Royal Academician and has recently been called one of the most underrated of British painters. A retrospective of Dunstan's work over the last 40 years is at William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow, London E17 (01 527 5544). From today.



DANCE

LEAPS AND BOUNDS: Julio Bocca, born in Buenos Aires, leapt to fame by winning the gold medal in the 1985 Moscow International Ballet Competition. Since then his personality and virtuosity have won cheers worldwide. He makes his London debut with London Festival Ballet in two famous showpiece roles, the *Corsair* and *deux* with Trinidad Savillan (Monday, Tuesday), and *Etudes* opposite Christine Camillo and Patrick Armand (Thursday). Expect fireworks (Coliseum, 01-836 3161).



CONCERTS

MANZONI MUSIC: Sir John Pritchard opens the 94th season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall on Friday conducting a performance of the *Requiem* Verdi composed in memory of Alessandro Manzoni, an Italian national literary hero. The composer brought a lifetime of operatic experience to the very different task of setting a religious text, and the result should make an exciting start to the season. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-379 4444).



BOOKS

HANGED - FOR LOVE: Edith Thompson has haunted the conscience of the nation since her execution at Holloway prison in 1923. Grave doubts were expressed at the time about how responsible she was for the murder of her husband in 1922 by her young lover, Frederick Bywaters. René Weis has had access to the closed Home Office files of the ugly case, and in *Criminal Justice* (Hamish Hamilton, £13.95) published on Monday, he argues with chapter and verse that Mrs Thompson was innocent.



CINEMA

FUNNY BUSINESS: Dan Aykroyd is up to crazy mischief in *The Couch Trip* (15) - he plays an anarcho-prisoner who escapes, impersonates a psychiatrist, takes over a radio phone-in show, and becomes a media celebrity. Walter Matthau appears as his fellow conspirator, but Aykroyd's cool, fast-talking style dominates the film. It is directed by Michael Ritchie, who has still to recapture the quirky bounce of films like *The Candidate* and *Smile*, which satirized American society. Odeon West End (01-830 6111), from Friday.



THEATRE

BROTHERLY LOVE: Kid Dee returns to the West End on Wednesday when Willy Russell's musical *Blood Brothers* starts previews. The occasion is a return for the show as well, which won four awards for Best Musical in 1983 and was playing to capacity audiences when its theatre's prior commitments forced an untimely closure. Dee plays the impoverished mother of twins who brought up one of them to be a singer. Albery Theatre, London WC2 (01-836 3878, cc 379 6665).

THEATRE

LONDON

BLOOD BROTHERS: Willy Russell's award-winning musical returns to the West End, now with Kid Dee. Bob Thomson directs. Bill Kenwright/Queens Theatre Hornchurch production in association with Bob Swash. Albery (01-836 3878). Previews from Wed. Opens July 27.

CHILDREN'S DAY: South Bank event includes National Theatre terrace and foyer entertainments, workshops and special performances. Theatre shows in the Lyttelton and Olivier. £1, otherwise no charge. National Theatre (01-928 2252). Today all day.

THE FOREIGNER: Larry Shue's comedy, with Tom Wam in the lead, makes a West End transfer. Whitehall (01-930 7765). Opens Mon. Closes at the Albery tonight.

THE GLASS HILL: The Four Brothers in an exploration of childhood fantasy. Watmans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (01-568 1176). Opens Wed.

THE RECRUITING OFFICER: George Farquhar's acid comedy of small-town life and military manners in 1708. Max Stafford-Clark directs. Jim Broadbent, Ron Cook, Nick Dunning, Alphonse Emmanuel, Linda Bassett. Royal Court (01-730 1745). Previews from Thurs. Opens July 26.

OUT OF TOWN

EDINBURGH: Mary Rose: J.M. Barrie 'time play' in a new production. Royal Lyceum (031 229 9697). Free preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

LEICESTER: Oh What a Lovely War: Professional production, also using local young amateurs, of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop 1963 show. The First World War seen through contemporary popular songs. Haymarket (0533 777777). Opens Fri.

CONCERTS

MOZART MASS: John Bates conducts the John Bates Choir, Orchestra and soloists in Mozart's great C minor Mass K 427, preceded by with Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Jennifer Fowler's *When David Heard*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8191, cc 01-928 8800). Today, 7.45pm.

WIGMORE END: The Wigmore Hall season ends with Elizabeth Connell singing 15 Schubert Lieder, including *Ganymed*, *Die Allmacht*, *Das Lied im grünen*. Graham Johnson accompanies. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141). Tues, 7.30pm.

GERMAN BRAHMS: After playing Dvorak's symphonic poem *The Water Goblin*, the Philharmonia Orchestra is joined by the American Festival Chorus, Brighton Festival Chorus and soloists in Brahms's German Requiem. Peter Tiboris conducts. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Tues, 7.45pm.

ORIGINAL FALLA: Nicholas Cleobury conducts the Aquarius ensemble and Jill Gomez (soprano) in the first UK performance of the original version of Falla's *El Corregidor y la Molinera*. The Triple Threat Dance Company appears in this. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wed, 8pm.

KAHIDZE/OVCHINKOV: Darius Kahidze conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 6 "Pathétique"*, and in Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No 2* the soloist is Vladimir Ovchinkov.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

PAWKE (a) Scottish and northern English dialect for a trick or conning; (b) a party, origin unknown; (c) a party, origin unknown; (d) a party, origin unknown.

UNNUN (c) To defrock a nun, etymology obvious: "Mary did quickly un-nun and defrocked herself."

ASTUCIOUS (c) Astute, from the Latin *astutus* meaning 'wily'. "Like all astute persons, as devious of looking into the hearts of others as of concealing his own."

STENDAL (a) To go through something slowly by blow, step by step, as Marie Henri Beyle (Stendhal) describes Julian's seduction of Mme de Rênal in the garden in *Le Rouge et le Noir*.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: A single, and penultimate, performance of *Don Giovanni* on Tues at 7pm, Boris Godunov takes up the rest of the week with Robert Lloyd leading the cast tonight, Wed and Fri at 6.30pm. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL: Falstaff tomorrow at 4.30pm and Wed and Fri at 5.30pm. Tonight, Tues and Sat July 23 at 5.50pm, further performances of *La Traviata* with Fiorenza Cedolani, Glyndebourne, Lewis, East Sussex (0273 541111).

DANCE

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: Besides Julio Bocca (see top of page), there are a host of guest and other star performances this week. The company revives *Petrushka* (Wed) and Christopher Bruce makes his debut in the title role Thurs. Lynne Charles, an American dancer now with Ballet's company, dances *Tatiana* on July 23. There are two more performances of *Swan Lake* today: *La Bayadere* and *Carmen* (Mon, Tues), and Bruce's dramatic *Land* (Wed, Thurs). Coliseum, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

MOSCOW CLASSICAL BALLET: The Glasgow Week closes today, then Manchester. Mon, July 23, with *Swan Lake* and two gala programmes. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). Palace Theatre, Manchester (061 236 9922).

ROCK

MICHAEL JACKSON: Wacko's historic run of concerts continues. Tonight, Fri and Sat 23, Wembley Stadium, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

THE SHUNDOU BOYS FEATURING MARK KNOPFLER: Zimbabwe's jitters joined by Dire Straits' supremo for another Nelson Mandela tribute. Mon, Brighton Academy, London SW9 (01-326 1022).

JETHRO TULL

Gnarled veterans of rock's "progressive" era. Tues, Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

GALLERIES

MOMENTS OF THE SUN: Pyrotechnically colourful paintings of sunsets over the Orwell estuary in Suffolk by Maggi Hambling. Arncliffe, Bristol (0272-299191). From today.

NAUM GABO (1890-1977): A selection of works by the Russian-born abstract sculptor who pioneered the use of new materials, such as plastics and perspex. Surinham City Art Gallery (021-235 2800). From today.

STEPHEN COX: Carvings made under the influence of southern India where, with British Council support, this sculptor has recently worked. Artists, Bath (0225-61559). From today.

JAZZ

BOBBY McFERRIN: Vocal gymnastics re-creating everything from "Round Midnight" to the Beatles' "Drive My Car" Victoria Palace Theatre, London SW1 (01-826 2610) tomorrow.

MEL LEWIS: With his exuberant Jazz Orchestra, the American drummer has assumed Buddy Rich's mantle. Wigan Jazz Festival (Info 0942 827527/828076) tonight; Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747) Mon to Sat.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CROWN AND COUNTRY: Exhibition of photographs of and by the Royal Family between 1842 and 1910, first shown at the Queen's Gallery in London. National Museum of Film and Photography, Wexham, Wokingham, Bracknell, West Yorkshire (0274 727486) until 13 Nov.

WORKING THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH: Documentary pictures by 25 photographers of mining from all corners of the globe. Impressions Gallery, 17 Collierygate, York (0904 654724) July 23 to Sept 3.

TELEVISION

A WOMAN ALONE: Lynn Redgrave as the housewife with all mod cons but an unfulfilled emotional life in the play by Italian writers Dario Fo and Franca Rame. BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.15pm.



There are changes afoot at Sun Hill Police Station as ITV's quality cop show, *The Bill*, changes format to two half-hour episodes every week. Among the new recruits are Inspector Christine Frazer (played by Barbara Thorpe, above), an ambitious blonde who can be guaranteed to ruffle male feathers. Sun Hill is also getting a new Detective Inspector and its first black constable. ITV, Tuesday and Thursday, 8-9.30pm.

IN TWO MINDS: Anna Cropper as the young schizophrenic in a re-run of David Mercer's remarkable 1967 play, directed by Ken Loach. BBC1, Thurs, 9.30-9.45pm.

FILMS

SPICY RICE (PG): The tragicomic troubles of a Pakistani immigrant in Germany. Striking first feature from Jan Schütte. Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470), from Fri.

MY LITTLE GIRL (15): An affluent teenage girl (Mary Stuart Masterson) tries breaking out of her cocoon by working at a shelter for homeless kids. Worthy drama with fine performances, directed in 1986 by Connie Kalischer. Curzon Phoenix (01-240 9661), from Fri.

Celebrations for Sir Gay

The centenary of Sergei Eisenstein's birth and the 50th anniversary of his death both fall in 1988. But the world cannot wait: spurred on by the wealth of new material now available in Russia, Eisenstein scholars have already launched the festivities. The centrepiece in Britain is a touring exhibition - "Eisenstein 1898-1948: His Life and Work" - which celebrates his hectic career as filmmaker, draftsman, teacher, scholar, and impish spirit. Tomorrow the show opens at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, in the autumn it comes down to the Hayward Gallery, London, before spending the new year in Manchester.

Eisenstein's films have for so long provided the bread and butter of cinema appreciation that we can easily take his achievements for granted. But there is so much more to the man than the Potemkin mutiny and the pram coursing down the Odessa Steps.

When still a teenager, he was publishing satirical political cartoons - some of them signed "Sir Gay" - and he drew compulsively throughout his life. "What is a line?" he once wrote, quoting an ancient Chinese writer, "a line speaks of movement." The exhibition shows just how mobile and vivid his drawings were: there are rude and fantastic jests from his childhood notebooks, mystical work from his last years, an astonishing series inspired by *Macbeth*, and some exuberant erotic products of his months in Mexico ("I am not to blame for these images," he said, "Mexico is to blame").

He was also a man of the theatre: the exhibition displays sets and costume designs from his four years with the Moscow Proletkult Theatre in the Twenties, plus a video replay of his very first film, the slapstick spoof *Glumov's Diary* (used in one of his stage productions).

But it was cinema that allowed him - at least intermittently - to channel his interests into a single



Man and mouse: Eisenstein meets Mickey Mouse at the Walt Disney Studios in Hollywood in 1930

art form (the major films can be seen in Oxford at the Phoenix Cinema over two weekends, July 22-24 and August 5-7). Eisenstein always found it difficult dealing with bureaucrats, whether they were political chiefs in Moscow or studio bosses in Hollywood, where he met Chaplin and Mickey Mouse but failed to get a film off the ground. Yet, along with many Soviet artists, he learned how to survive: in the hostile climate of the Thirties, he spent much time

teaching. New translations of his writings and lectures are now being published by the British Film Institute: the first volume, covering 1922 to 1934, appeared in March.

The exhibition's last section is headed "Into the Darkness." Amidst the muddle and agony of war, we see Eisenstein preparing his historical epic *Ivan the Terrible*. He suffered a serious heart attack, and expended much-needed energy trying to mollify

Stalin, who loathed the film's second part. In theory it sounds like a gloomy last chapter. But you only need glance at the exhibition and its attendant hoop-la to realize that 40 years after his death - Eisenstein remains jubilantly alive and kicking.

Geoff Brown

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 7.00-7.30 *News*; 7.30-8.00 *Scottish News*; 8.00-8.30 *Scottish News*; 8.30-9.00 *Scottish News*; 9.00-9.30 *Scottish News*; 9.30-10.00 *Scottish News*; 10.00-10.30 *Scottish News*; 10.30-11.00 *Scottish News*; 11.00-11.30 *Scottish News*; 11.30-12.00 *Scottish News*; 12.00-12.30 *Scottish News*; 12.30-1.00 *Scottish News*; 1.00-1.30 *Scottish News*; 1.30-2.00 *Scottish News*; 2.00-2.30 *Scottish News*; 2.30-3.00 *Scottish News*; 3.00-3.30 *Scottish News*; 3.30-4.00 *Scottish News*; 4.00-4.30 *Scottish News*; 4.30-5.00 *Scottish News*; 5.00-5.30 *Scottish News*; 5.30-6.00 *Scottish News*; 6.00-6.30 *Scottish News*; 6.30-7.00 *Scottish News*; 7.00-7.30 *Scottish News*; 7.30-8.00 *Scottish News*; 8.00-8.30 *Scottish News*; 8.30-9.00 *Scottish News*; 9.00-9.30 *Scottish News*; 9.30-10.00 *Scottish News*; 10.00-10.30 *Scottish News*; 10.30-11.00 *Scottish News*; 11.00-11.30 *Scottish News*; 11.30-12.00 *Scottish News*; 12.00-12.30 *Scottish News*; 12.30-1.00 *Scottish News*; 1.00-1.30 *Scottish News*; 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1497.5 (+0.8)	US dollar 1.8625 (-0.0275)
FT-SE 100 1861.5 (-1.8)	W German mark 3.1172 (-0.0009)
USM (Datastream) 164.81 (+0.23)	Trade-weighted 74.6 (-0.5)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

LIT profit slumps to £3.5m

LIT Holdings, the commodity and futures broker, has seen almost half of its profits evaporate in the wake of the October crash.

Mr John Botts, who was appointed chairman when Mr Paul Dupree resigned last January, yesterday unveiled pre-tax profits of £3.5 million for the year ended March, compared with £6.02 million previously.

Earnings per share have tumbled from 3.65p to 2.03p, but an 0.96p final dividend pegs the total at 1.5p. There was an exceptional loss of £1.31 million which included a provision for customer defaults and other trading losses last October.

The group was not directly hit by the crash - it does not trade as a principal - but it suffered in the aftermath. But Mr Botts said the group is now "in a much better condition to withstand and benefit from the inevitable volatility and opportunities of international financial markets."

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2118.44 (-0.18)
Tokyo	27913.79 (-170.29)
Nikkei Average	27913.79 (-170.29)
Hong Kong	2740.70 (-12.85)
Amsterdam	268.5 (+0.3)
Sydney	1822.5 (+7.4)
Frankfurt	1494.8 (+8.7)
Brussels	354.1 (-1.2)
Paris CAC	504.7 (+32.5)
Zurich	504.7 (+32.5)
London	
FT-A All-Share	988.55 (-0.32)
FT-100	1861.5 (-1.8)
FT Gold Mines	223.7 (+0.1)
FT Food Index	87.24 (+0.05)
FT Govt Secs	87.52 (-0.25)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

British Aerospace	480p (+150)
Yale & Volor	465p (+180)
Redifarm	470p (+140)
Meat Trade Supp	312p (+300)
Barbour Index	385p (+100)
Buckley	275p (+100)
Allied Irish	275p (+100)
MAI	365p (+150)
Johnson	450p (+100)
Walker Greenhalgh	127p (+100)
Lax	405p (+120)
Independent	475p (+100)
Davies & Newman	725p (+200)
Dewk	145p (+100)
Wentworth Moore	430p (+100)

FAIRF	723p (-13p)
Chryseis Int'l	550p (-11p)
Henderson Admin	745p (-10p)
Sturge Holdings	257p (-12p)
Stanley Leisure	230p (-10p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10%
3-month Interbank	10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bill	10 1/2-10 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	5 1/4%
Federal Funds	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill	8 7/8-8 7/16%
30-year bonds	9 5/8-9 9/16%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.8625	£ \$1.8625
£ DM3.1172	£ DM3.1172
£ Sfr2.5518	£ Sfr2.5518
£ FF10.4821	£ FF10.4821
£ Yen224.94	£ Yen224.94
£ Index 74.6	£ Index 74.6
ECU £0.66457	SDR £0.770100

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$438.10 PM \$438.10
close \$438.00-438.50	(2833.00-2833.50)
New York	Comex \$438.40-439.90

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug)	pm \$14.05bbl (\$14.05)
Devoted latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Recent additions include: English and Overseas Properties 03334; Shani Group 02932; Drayton Far East Investment Trust 03174; Neader Group 03194; John Tams 03195; Sanwa Bank 07227; Eurocopy 03177; Jackson Group 03185; City of London Public Relations 03352; Hilcare 03355; Severfield-Reeve 03366; Colefax and Fowler 03369; Builder Group 03373; BMSS 03376; Lincat 03377; British Gas Restricted Transfer 03378; Prospective Group Referred 03379; Rockfort Group (03382); Erosin Group (03383); Heritage (03381); Prestwick Holdings 7 1/2% conv pref 03385; CLF Holdings conv pref 03384; ● Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak incl. VAT.

Base rates to hit 11% as inflation leaps

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Base rates are set to rise again next week, possibly by a full percentage point, in response to inflationary pressures in the economy and a weaker pound. The rate of inflation is likely to reach 5 per cent soon, and is heading higher.

Money market interest rates rose yesterday, partly in response to the announcement of a fourth successive monthly increase in retail price inflation. At present levels, the money markets are discounting a rise in base rates from 10 to 10.5 per cent. Money supply figures due on Wednesday are expected to be poor.

But analysts said the Chancellor may break the pattern of half-point rate increases, of which there have been five since early June, to underline his anti-inflationary commitment. This would mean raising rates from 10 to 11 per cent, and push up mortgage rates to between 11.5 and 12 per cent.

Treasury officials refused to comment on a possible rise in interest rates next week, but they dismissed reports of a dispute between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor on interest rate policy, with Mrs Thatcher said to be demanding an immediate in-

crease to 12 per cent. The rate of inflation last month was 4.6 per cent, its highest since February 1986 and up from 4.2 per cent in May. Since reaching a low of 3.3 per cent in January-February, inflation has picked up in the latest six months the annualized rate was 6.5 per cent.

The index of retail prices rose to 106.6 last month (January 1987 = 100), an increase of 0.4 per cent from its level of 106.2 in May. Higher prices for motor vehicles, petrol, gas and electricity (the third tranche of the present price increases), non-seasonal foods and clothing pushed up the index.

The index appears to be rising by 0.4 per cent a month; on this basis the inflation rate will breach 5 per cent when the July figures are published in a month's time. A mortgage rate rise on top of the stronger underlying increase in prices could mean 5.5 per cent inflation in August.

Mr Keith Skeoch, economist at James Capel, said the inflation rate was unlikely to come down below 5 per cent for the next 18 months. "We could see a one-point base rate rise on Monday or Tuesday," he said. "If it is only half it

won't be enough." Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said: "As the Chancellor has already made clear, he is not prepared to take risks with inflation and in raising interest rates has taken the necessary steps to reduce the pressure on prices."

"The current rate of inflation needs to be kept in perspective. It remains well below the increase in earnings." In response, Mr Bill Martin, chief UK economist at Phillips & Drew, the broker, said: "I was astonished that Norman Fowler should choose to say that inflation was below average earnings growth."

"If 6.5 per cent is the yardstick for inflation, that is extremely worrying. Base rates need to rise, and it is a question of whether they go for half or the full 1 per cent." Money market sentiment changed dramatically. On Thursday, the markets seemed content with 10 per cent base rates. Yesterday, the three-month interbank rate closed at 10 1/2-10 3/4 per cent.

Mr David Smith, economist at Williams de Broe Hill, the broker, said that if the Chancellor was serious about reining back credit growth, base rates could have to rise to 13 per cent, as during the Barber boom in 1973.

Central bank intervention fails to halt dollar's surge

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The dollar surged against all currencies yesterday, overcoming central bank intervention, after the publication of figures showing a narrower-than-expected United States trade deficit in May.

Dealers said that the dollar was boosted by market relief that the US trade improvement was holding up, and by hardening US interest rates.

The trade deficit widened only slightly in May to \$10.93 billion (\$5.6 billion), from a revised \$10.3 billion (\$5.2 billion) in April. Market expectations had been for a \$11-11.5 billion deficit.

The dollar, which was strong ahead of the figures, closed three pence up at DM1.8750, its best for a year, and rose from Y135 to

Y135.30. The pound was pushed down by 2.75 cents to \$1.6625.

The surge was in spite of intervention by European central banks, led by the West German Bundesbank and including the Bank of England. Another rise in European interest rates next week was a strong possibility, analysts said.

"There is an underlying bullish dollar sentiment and the markets no longer believe that the policy of stabilizing exchange rates is in place," said Mr David Morrison, the chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, the securities house.

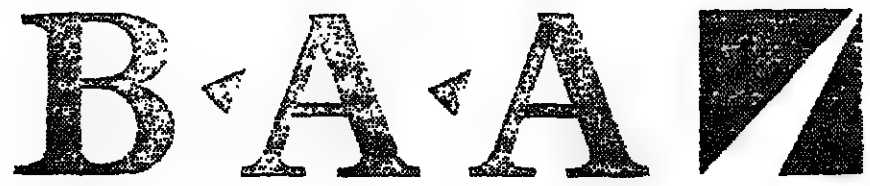
US exports continued to gain in May, rising by 2.3 per cent to \$26.6 billion but

imports were also strong, rising by 3.4 per cent to \$37.6 billion. However, the rise in imports largely reflected a 17.7 per cent increase in the value of oil imports. Analysts said non-oil imports were encouragingly weak.

Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, said this week that he expected further gains in exports to provide the most dramatic stimulus to US growth this year and next, reflecting the delayed response to the sharp decline in the dollar in 1987.

The trade figures were released as Washington officials announced that inflation, as measured by wholesale prices, rose by a moderate 0.4 per cent in June.

Organ music lift-off at first meeting



INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GROUP



Sir Norman and a shareholder at yesterday's meeting (Photograph: Nick Goldfinger)

Grounded baggage trolleys delay departures from BAA

By Colin Campbell

They came by underground, bus and train rather than flying in from some exotic resort. And instead of an annoying loudspeaker system calling the weary traveller to the departure gate, there was majestic organ music to mark the public baptism of BAA as a quoted company.

Yesterday was the first annual meeting of BAA (formerly British Airports Authority). And though there were no duty free shops in which to browse, the 1,000 shareholders who wound their way to the Royal Albert Hall (seated capacity 5,583) must have found it rather more comfortable than the crowded Gatwick terminals where would-be tourists even now are taking turns to sleep while waiting for a take-off slot.

If Sir Norman Payne, BAA's chairman, went to sleep on Thursday night rehearsing the good news that

passenger traffic through the company's seven airports had increased by 6.6 per cent in June, and that in the first three months of this financial year traffic is 5.2 per cent higher, then he must have felt disappointed after two hours on his feet and an 18-page statement, at what shareholders really said to discuss.

There were a few rounds of applause for good results, but BAA shareholders were more interested in why there were no women on the board, why there were no Continental counterparts, and why their wheels spin in all directions other than the one in which the passenger wants to go.

At the mention of how good and reliable Zurich airport trolleys are, there were cheers and claps from the gods, leaving Sir Norman to say that three-legged British trolleys fall over and were not safe.

Another shareholder had lost his luggage in April, and

there were suggestions that security should be improved to stop nasty fellow passengers running off with the wrong bag.

"I don't suppose the board has this problem since you are probably whipped into your Rolls-Royce by a chauffeur who carries your luggage," one told Sir Norman. He tersely replied: "This board doesn't have Rolls-Royces."

Other shareholders were more interested in why there were no women on the board, why there were no Continental counterparts, and why their wheels spin in all directions other than the one in which the passenger wants to go.

After nearly two hours shareholders were clearly beginning to feel like waiting passengers at Gatwick and by 11 in the morning there were suggestions that the meeting get on with the business of the day. Others, obviously regular annual meeting fans, were anxious to get away.

By 1 pm the organ began to play.

City puts its weight behind BAe deal

By Carol Ferguson

The City applauded Prof Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, yesterday in his stand against EEC constraints, and threw its weight behind the proposed takeover of Rover Group by his company.

City fund managers chased shares of BAe sharply higher on their return from the two-day suspension yesterday. Frozen at 471p while final details of the £150 million deal were being finalized, the shares dipped to a low for the day of 445p in early trading.

But the price rallied strongly after informal BAe briefings later in the day with City analysts.

It eventually closed 19p up on the day at 490p, after touching a peak of 494p, in hectic trading which saw more than 18 million shares change hands - about three times the normal level.

BAe explained to analysts that the EEC-forced £331 million cut in the Government's planned £500 million cash injection into Rover was partly offset by £78 million in regional aid, reducing the cuts to £253 million. In addition, Rover's trading performance in the first half of 1988 appears to have been better than expected.

And this, together with the improved tax allowances, makes the difference between the original deal and revised deal very small.

Mr Ian Wild, analyst at Barclay's de Zoete Wedd, has reduced his BAe profits forecast this year by £20 million to £235 million pre-tax. The delay in completing the deal means this year's results will have only three or four months of Rover's profits included. He estimates Rover will make about £60 million of profits this year before interest, rising to £90 million in 1989.

The fate of the 60,000 or more private shareholders in Rover remains unresolved. There are still 13 million Rover shares in private hands, with 10 million owned by more than 60,000 individuals.

Mr Noel Falconer, a spokesman for Bliss, the British Leyland Individual Shareholders Society, said that, taking inflation into account, the shares were now worth £4, compared with the price at which they were suspended of 74p. If the shareholders were offered payment on the same basis as the Government, they would receive 2.7p a share.

"If we are offered less than £2, we will not accept, and if there is a compulsory purchase order, we will initiate an abuse of minority suit," Mr Falconer said.

Amex card launched in China

Peking (Reuters) - American Express has launched its gold and corporate credit cards in China, and said it is aiming initially at a market of more than 400,000 state companies. Officials said the cards would be issued through three domestic financial institutions - the Bank of China, the Bank of Communications and the China International Trust and Investment Corp Industrial Bank.

Mastercard was the first foreign credit card to be issued in China, where most payments are still made in cash.

Mr Louis Gerstner, president of American Express, said the company's corporate card was likely to be most successful as China's reforms encourage the expansion of the private sector.

American Express cards are already accepted in China.

Courtaulds sells S African interests in £207m deal

By Our City Staff

Courtaulds is effectively quitting South Africa by selling its dissolving pulp interests in Natal and its shareholding in the Usutu Paper Company of Swaziland to a South African-led consortium for a net £207 million.

The group says the decision to sell its woodpulp interests to a consortium led by South Africa's largest pulp and paper company, Sappi, was made solely on commercial grounds, and that there was no political considerations involved.

Courtaulds has been involved with South Africa since the mid-1950s. Through the sale, the group's South African workforce shrinks from 10,720 to 710.

It retains a handful of small businesses in South Africa, and has agreed a long-term

supply contract for the various plants' production with the new owners.

Courtaulds will suffer an estimated £40 million profits setback, equivalent to 1p a share earnings dilution, from the sale of interests which contributed a net £23 million to last year's annual earnings.

However, the sale releases funds otherwise committed to woodpulp which could be used for growth opportunities.

Sir Christopher Hogg, Courtaulds's chairman, said the woodpulp interests were not "core" to the group, and would have required an ongoing commitment to spend considerable amounts of capital.

"Given the competing demands for investment from our other business sectors we

decided some time ago that this business, despite its strength, could not offer Courtaulds a long-term growth opportunity," he added.

The sale has taken seven months to finalize, and Courtaulds will in August receive a net £207 million payable outside of South Africa.

The effect will be to clear Courtaulds of all gearing, which stood at 25 per cent at last balance sheet date, and leave it with a small cash sum.

Courtaulds said that Mr Kerry Packer, the Australian entrepreneur who with associated family interests recently moved on to the share register, had in recent weeks raised his stake in Courtaulds from 3.5 per cent to 4 per cent.

Winding-up petition for DPR Futures

By Lawrence Lever

The Securities and Investments Board yesterday successfully petitioned the High Court to wind up DPR Futures, the futures and options dealer, which the SIB suspended on Monday and is now investigating.

At the same time the Serious Fraud Office is believed to have decided to conduct an investigation into the way DPR conducted its business.

The company specialized in high-pressure selling of futures and options contracts to private investors. It also charged clients high rates of commission.

SIB investigators this week interviewed DPR's employees and also took statements from clients who lost thousands of pounds with the company.

The SIB's report, together with one by the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, to whom DPR applied for membership, will be passed to the Serious Fraud Office.

whether DPR's method of dealing and high commission charges meant that clients were bound to lose their money over a period of dealing with DPR. Complaints that DPR salesmen put clients into contracts without prior authority and made misrepresentations are also under investigation.

The firm's tactics were so successful that it is believed to have made pretax profits of more than £250,000 a month.

Meanwhile, DPR investors have continued to tell The Times of how they lost thousands of pounds through DPR. One investor, a self-employed sculptor earning £10,000 a year, lost his £24,000 savings and inheritance when he succumbed to high-pressure selling from DPR salesmen. He was persuaded to invest in futures to make up losses he suffered in the stock market crash.

"They told me that the futures market existed to redress any fluctuations in the stock market. I put £6,000 with them at first. I was getting statements from them but they didn't tell you whether you were

making a profit or a loss. Then in February they rang me up and told me I had lost the lot."

In March the badgering from DPR started again. "I was called every day at home where I work. Sometimes they phoned more than once a day. They always expressed overwhelming confidence about the prospects; there was never any intimation that real losses could ensue. I could not afford to lose more money. They said: 'If you give us more money we will get you £6,000 back.' Eventually I relented."

Mr Smith handed over £18,000, which was lost over two months and several contracts. He claims DPR earned commissions of at least £76,000 (£45,000) on his money.

The Official Receiver has been appointed provisional liquidator of DPR, and in turn appointed Mr John Talbot of Arthur Anderson, the accountant, as special manager. Arthur Anderson's address is 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PE.

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NO SALESMAN WILL CALL
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS

Lewis's raises £80m in deal with CapCo

By Cliff Feltman

The management team that launched a buyout of the Lewis's department store chain from Sears, the retailing group, is raising £80 million from a sale and leaseback deal with Capital & Counties, the shopping centre developer.

The cash raised by the fledgling high street group will help wipe out the debts that arose from financing the buyout, while Capital & Counties will start a redevelopment of some of the biggest stores. As part of the deal the property group will have the right to take a 25 per cent stake in the Lewis's stores business.

Last night, Mr James Fyfe, who is moving up from managing director to chairman of Lewis's, said: "It was always our intention to do something of this kind. We had a lot of debts and owned a lot of freehold property. This deal will leave us with a clean balance sheet and give us the

opportunity to redevelop and modernize some of the stores."

Capital & Counties is buying seven of the 10 stores involved in the buyout, in Manchester, Oxford, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Blackpool and Bolton. Lewis's also runs stores in Birmingham, Glasgow and Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

Mr Ray Moorman, managing director of Capital & Counties, said: "The stores we are buying are almost all in prime shopping locations in strong retailing centres - and some are in good office locations."

"They comprise over 2 million sq ft of space and present a very exciting opportunity to add value with relatively little physical disturbance. That development potential can be realized quite quickly in some instances and without substantially interfer-

ing with Lewis's continuity of trade."

He says the stores in Manchester and Leeds are ideal for redeveloping the ground area where concessions or shops-within-stores could be introduced.

"This is a tremendously productive transaction for both of us. Lewis's will end up with modernized stores and a strong base from which to expand, and we will have major retail and office investment of considerably enhanced value."

His group is also acquiring £20 million of redeemable preference shares in Lewis's which can be converted into a 25 per cent stake over the next 10 years. Two representatives of Capital & Counties will join the Lewis's board as non-executive directors and Lewis's will make similar nominations to the board of the property group.

Liquidator sent in at Reid Services

By Lawrence Lever

The Department of Trade and Industry has appointed a provisional liquidator at Reid Services, a share dealer which has about 600 clients. This is the third investment firm to be challenged by the authorities this week.

Reid is believed to have been suspended from membership of the Financial Intermediaries' Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) in March this year.

The company primarily sold over-the-counter shares to private investors. The DTI's petition to appoint the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator alleges that the company is insolvent and that its accounting records do not comply with the Companies Act.

Reid originally ran a small insurance consultancy from Weymouth, Dorset, starting in 1983. However, since June 1987, the company has run a much larger operation from Bristol, Avon, selling over-the-counter shares.

A statement from the DTI yesterday said that the Official Receiver's role is to safeguard the assets of the company until the hearing of the winding-up petition.

People wishing to contact him should write to The Official Receiver's Office, Atlantic House, (Ref E/137), Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD.

Ex-HKSE chief charged

Hong Kong (Reuters) - Mr Jeffrey Sun, former chief executive of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, was charged yesterday on counts of accepting bribes.

Mr Sun was granted bail of HK\$2.1 million (£161,790) and remanded until August 11. He did not plead.

He is accused of accepting in June, 182,000 shares of QPL Holdings, the electronics manufacturer, to approve a new QPL issue and is also charged with accepting 100,000 shares in Video Technology Holdings as an inducement for approving a listing.

He will appear in court on August 11 at the same time as Mr Ronald Li, the former stock exchange chairman. Mr Li has been charged with accepting shares in Kumagau Gum Hong Kong.

INL sells £7m Reuters stake

Independent Newspapers, the New Zealand publishing group, has sold about half of its holding in Reuters on the open market for NZ\$18.5 million (£7.1 million). INL, in which The News Corporation has a 40 per cent interest, announced a week ago that it was buying the Auckland Star for NZ\$72 million.

Greycoat plans

Greycoat Group, the property development and investment company, has won approval from the Department of the Environment for two large projects in Wimbledon.

One of the schemes, a large shopping centre, is being funded by UK Provident Institution, part of Friends' Provident Life Office, at a cost of £60 million.

Rising house prices may send inflation through the roof



KENNETH FLEET

If the weather or the prospect of interminable delays at airports are not enough to depress you, you might like to try the balance of payments (in deepening deficit) or the rate of inflation (rising). I would choose inflation because it is more topical and is provoking scintillating mutterings in and around the Treasury, calculated to disturb everyone who owns his own home.

Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is accused of "giving away" too much money through his Budget tax cuts (a nonsense) and compounding his error by massaging base rates down to 7½ per cent, swelling the flow of credit and encouraging consumer spending. Neither is good for inflation.

This week has seen bigger-than-expected increases (in June) in prices producers pay and charge, and the June retail price index, published yesterday, is 4.6 per cent, a cry, if not a far cry, from the January low of 3.3 per cent. Important influences bearing on the future RPI can only be guessed at (world commodity prices, the sterling exchange rate, the movement in wages and salaries). But given the climb in base rates back to 10 per cent (and possibly higher), one thing is certain: mortgage rates are going up and they will bump up the RPI from August onwards. The third quarter of the year

is likely to see a 4.8 per cent RPI and while it may fall a fraction in the fourth, an emotive and politically embarrassing 5 per cent is in the stars for the first quarter of 1989.

It may not happen but it is not easy to be too optimistic when the air is suddenly filled with Whitehall-inspired gossip about credit controls (dismissed, it is true, by Mr Lawson, as "ineffective" and "circumvented with ease") and "a tax on home ownership". It is hard to know whether to take this seriously.

There is a school of Oxford economists with cultural lines to the Treasury which maintains that rising house prices have a serious impact on the rate of inflation. Ergo, if one takes measures to keep house prices down, and they succeed, one reduces the upward pressure on prices generally. There is a "wealth effect": just looking in an estate agent's window makes house owners feel richer and they go out and spend more (a dubious proposition at

best). There is also the impact on wage demands ("we need more money to buy more expensive houses") and crucially, on pay settlements. I doubt whether this particular piece of "logic" bears any examination at all.

However, the arguments have fanned the embers of charred logs like Schedule A taxation - which many will remember - on the imputed rental value of the property one owns; tax relief on mortgage interest (abolition of), which has some merit though not for reasons to do with inflation; and even the Labour Government's system in the late 1970s of guidelines for building society lending.

We know where the Prime Minister stands on mortgage interest tax relief - she has interposed herself between it and Treasury and other thinkers who would abolish it. Guidelines are a joke that does not raise a tinter.

The central point is the absurdity of tinkering with symptoms. Inflation's causes will respond to treatment: higher interest rates, which we have now; a tighter monetary policy, which we are getting; a sound fiscal policy (we have a prospective Budget surplus this year of £7 billion, and £10 billion next); and a strong exchange rate, which the Prime Minister for one will want to maintain.

A training dynamo for business

Yesterday morning I went back to the former Times building in Gray's Inn Road, not to talk with ghosts or relive the past but to hear the newly-appointed chairman of the Training Commission, the remodelled successor to the Manpower Services Commission where Lord Young first raised his political flag. Brian Wolfson, aged 52, takes up his appointment, which is part time and for three years, on September 1. He is chairman of the British Institute of Management until the end of September and chairman of Wembley, where his involvement remains total.

Norman Fowler would have been hard put to find a better qualified or more committed man for the job. He is a board member of the Foundation for Management Education and a member of the advisory board of the Wharton Centre for International Management Studies. He knows, for example, that the trouble with business schools is that they spend their time teaching students how to solve problems. "The real

business is to find the problem; then you have a chance of solving it." His vein of Merseyside humour is particularly rich.

Mr Wolfson believes that the difference between company A and company B (and between country A and country B) is "people, the level of their skills and standards of leadership". He maintains that the quality of leadership in British industry has risen: "It has come from the depths but it still has a mountain to climb. The urgent task now is to enhance the level of skills."

He has an historic and American perception of the problem of education and training in Britain.

"We have a brilliant system for training élites and a diabolical system for educating the rest. To make progress you have to negotiate élitist hurdles. Some succeed but most do not and they are left behind disgruntled. Contrast that with the approach of the most successful company in the world,

IBM. It sets its sales force achievable targets, which enables and encourages them to tackle the next hurdle, and the next and the next."

In the United States, where, incidentally, Mr Wolfson became the first non-North American world president of the Young Presidents' Organisation, attitudes generally are different. "To know is to grow, in contrast to here, there is a lack of envy of success, the value of investing in yourself, in your education and training, is understood - universities are measured by the number of graduates placed in jobs and their median salaries; and the philosophy of business is market pull - selling your wares - not producer push."

He is too shrewd a Liverpudlian to believe for one moment that one man can change a culture, even the culture of an organization. But the Training Commission, as surely as Wembley and the BIM did, will soon discover that it has a dedicated dynamo at the head.

Vote ends stalemate on Gucci board

Shareholders of Guccio Gucci, the Italian fashion house, have reached a compromise which has ended an impasse over the format of the board.

Signorina Maria Martelli, the Gucci chairman, said shareholders had agreed at a meeting in Florence this week to the addition of two seats to

the previous eight-member board.

Mr Paul Dimitruk, a representative of Investcorp, the Bahrain investment bank which owns 47.8 per cent of Gucci, and Signor Vittorio Ponti, representing custodians for the frozen 50 per cent stake held by Signor Maurizio

Gucci, the former chairman, were named to the board.

Investcorp and the custodians now each have five seats. Signor Maurizio Gucci can not vote his stake, pending the outcome of legal challenges.

Signor Roberto Gucci - one of the grandsons of Guccio Gucci, the company's founder

- who holds a 2.2 per cent stake, did not participate in the meeting.

Investcorp had sought a nine-man board, plus a fifth seat, at a meeting last month. Sources said management of the firm remains clouded because the board now must select a managing director.

Central & Sheerwood cash boost

By Our City Staff

The latest stage in the rehabilitation of Central & Sheerwood, the engineering, printing and publishing conglomerate run by Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon, involves a fresh £2.34 million cash injection from Robert Fraser, a financial services and property group.

In return, Fraser, in which Pergamon has a 7.89 per cent holding, representing 2.17 per cent of the voting capital, and several executives from Fraser's property division, will take an aggregate 29.9 per cent stake in C&S. They will hold the shares for at least two years.

C&S will also acquire four property companies from Fraser for £860,000.

At the same time Mr Maxwell joins C&S as chairman. His son, Kevin, is a non-executive director of both C&S and Fraser.

CASE poised for final attack on bid

By Michael Tate

CASE Group, the computer network company fighting a £59 million hostile takeover bid from Gandalf Technologies, the Canadian group, is likely to publish its final attack on the Ottawa group's proposals today.

Under City takeover rules, today is the last opportunity for CASE to issue information relevant to the bid battle, and it is understood that a revised defence document will be posted to shareholders.

It is thought that the document will not include a profit forecast, since CASE is only three months into its current financial year.

But it does seem as if a substantial increase in sales in the first quarter may be reported, as well as significant news on dividend prospects.

Mr James Bailey, the Lancashire-born chief executive of

Gandalf, flew into London this week to mastermind the final stages of the bid.

He will this week be calling on the British institutions who are being asked to accept Gandalf shares in part payment for CASE.

The next closing date for the bid is Friday, with August 5 as the final date. There have already been indications that Mr Bailey would be prepared to raise his terms if he could win a recommendation from the CASE board.

It now seems almost certain that he will announce an increase early next week. Sources close to Gandalf believe that CASE shareholders will be offered terms worth something over 100p a share. The current bid - one Gandalf share and 320p in cash for every eight CASE - is worth 92.5p.

Lloyd's faces up to losses on two fronts

Piper Alpha reinsurance 'incomplete'

By Colin Nairbrough

Some Lloyd's of London underwriters are understood to be facing greater losses than they had expected after last week's Piper Alpha oil platform disaster, as their brokers failed to complete the required reinsurance arrangements in time.

A Lloyd's spokesman said yesterday that no official confirmation had been received of incomplete reinsurance slips, and that such

information would normally be available only if underwriting syndicates or companies could not meet their commitments.

The trouble appears to have arisen because the explosions on board Piper Alpha occurred less than two weeks after the attachment date for reinsurance of oil rigs and platforms. Some reinsurance slips had not been completed by July 6, the day of the disaster.

While an unknown percentage of the estimated loss of \$1.2 billion (£710 million) may not be reinsured, payments to the operators of the platform will be unaffected, and are expected to be paid out under a special fast procedure which applies to major losses.

Direct underwriters will, however, have to carry a larger share of the claim than they would have needed to had full reinsurance cover been in place.

The sensitive nature of the issue has meant that brokers are reluctant to discuss Piper Alpha reinsurance. They are prepared to admit their awareness of flawed reinsuring, but are unwilling to identify specific cases.

The big established broking firms insist that their business is conducted with precision and punctuality, suggesting that any reinsurance slippage is likely to be found among the smaller, less-organized brokers.

Nearly 1,000 names leaving market

A run of bad news for underwriters, the latest being the tragedy on board Piper Alpha oil platform, could explain the current flight of names from the Lloyd's insurance market, a spokesman said yesterday.

But serious underwriting losses are not the only cause for the increasing numbers of members resigning, and the changes in taxation structure are seen as a more fundamental reason for names departing for other fields of investment.

Mr Murray Lawrence, the market's chairman, recently made it clear that Lloyd's needed to go back to making sound underwriting profits, and to move away from cash-flow business, underlining its interest in long-term commitment from its members.

The solvency and security committee is expected to report later this year on whether the minimum assets

requirement for members should be raised from the present £100,000, as a way of encouraging the wealthier, longer-term investor. The new figure, expected to be in the region of £200,000 to £250,000, could come into force in 1990.

Lloyd's is unable to say which type of member is resigning, and appears unconcerned about the present level of departures. It sees the phenomenon more as a shedding of underwriting capacity in a market currently suffering from over-capacity.

The more than 33,500 members at the start of the year were capable of underwriting premiums to a value of £11.6 billion, a figure far in excess of what will be called on.

The latest figures for names shows 758 resignations, compared with 244 and 82

respectively at this time last year. Applications, meanwhile, stood at 1,073 yesterday, against 3,125 a year ago.

However, Lloyd's, as a body, views the question of underwriting capacity as one on which it need take no central action, and can instead rely on members' agents not to take on more names than they can place on syndicates. Lloyd's would begin to worry only if underwriting capacity fell below the level of demand, the spokesman said.

The market has had periods of levelling off and decline in the past. In 1965-66, the number of names fell in the wake of the damage caused by Hurricane Betsy, which caused members an average loss of £5,000 each.

In the past, however, such fluctuations were less public.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE

5 (day's range 74.5-78.0).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	20.403-20.504
Australia dollar	2.1018-2.1072
Bahrein diener	1.6235-1.6335
Brazil cruzeiro	560.24-552.29
Cyprus pound	0.80-0.81
Finland markka	7.9130-7.9550
Greece drachma	247.50-249.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.9986-12.9988
India rupee	54.56-54.71
Kuwait dirham	0.4705-0.4745
Malaya ringgit	4.2637-4.2638
Malta guilder	0.2000-0.2000
New Zealand dollar	2.5890-2.5891
Saudi Arabia riyal	1.25-1.25
Switzerland franc	5.4043-5.4044
S. Africa rand	1.5738-1.5739
S. Africa rand (cont)	4.0481-4.0573
U.S. dollar	1.4105-1.4125

***London Rate. Rates supplied by
Etel and Barclays Bank HOFEX.**

5

Italy	1384.0-1386.0
Spain peseta	167.30-167.35
Hong Kong	75.140-75.1850
Portugal	129.40-132.40
Spain peseta	140.00-141.00
Austria	13.17-13.18

Barclays Bank HOFEX and Etel.

D MONEY DEPOSITS %

7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
7d-7d1h	0-7%	0-10-0%	0-10-0%
4m-4h	4m-4h	5d-5d1h	6d-6h
7d-7d1h	7d-7d1h	7d-7d1h	7d-7d1h
3M-3M	3M-3M	4M-4M	4M-4M
4M-4M	4M-4M	4M-4M	4M-4M

GOLD

438.75 Close: \$438.00-438.50
442.25 Low: \$437.00-437.50

Per coin (EX VAT)

0.00-458.00 (\$271.00-264.50)
\$7.00-440.00 (\$282.50-264.50)
\$1.00-458.00 (\$271.00-264.50)
\$1.00-458.00 (\$271.00-264.50)
\$103.00-104.00 (\$62.00-62.75)
\$103.00-104.50 (\$62.00-63.00)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTU

	High	Low	Close	Vol
Round				
85-05	Previous open interest 71,600			1,667
85-05	85-05	85-05	85-10	2
Flat				
85-11	Previous open interest 41,682			2,054
85-11	85-11	85-11	85-11	737
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Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches or better this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash	Div	Yield	P/E
1	British Airways	Industrial A-D	100	10	10%	10
2	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
3	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
4	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
5	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
6	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
7	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
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9	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
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48	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
49	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10
50	Amstrad	Electronics	100	10	10%	10

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1988	High	Low	Open	Close	Yield	P/E
1	100	100	100	100	10%	10
2	100	100	100	100	10%	10
3	100	100	100	100	10%	10
4	100	100	100	100	10%	10
5	100	100	100	100	10%	10
6	100	100	100	100	10%	10
7	100	100	100	100	10%	10
8	100	100	100	100	10%	10
9	100	100	100	100	10%	10
10	100	100	100	100	10%	10
11	100	100	100	100	10%	10
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45	100	100	100	100	10%	10
46	100	100	100	100	10%	10
47	100	100	100	100	10%	10
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
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7	100	100	100	100	10%	10
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
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5	100	100	100	100	10%	10
6	100	100	100	100	10%	10
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47	100	100	100	100	10%	10

FAMILY MONEY

Dearer bank mortgages

As mortgage lenders announce their lending rates in the wake of recent bank base rate rises, the news seems ever more depressing.

First came Barclays Bank with a mortgage rate at 11.1 per cent (an APR of 11.6), then Midland Bank moved its mortgage rate from 9.75 to 11.3 per cent. Now the TSB has increased its mortgage rates too.

Endowment mortgages go from 9.6 to 11.25 per cent, while repayment mortgages rise from 9.9 to 11.6 per cent. The higher rate reflects the fact that the TSB will not be picking up the lucrative endowment insurance contact at the same time.

The TSB is also introducing a new fixed-rate mortgage at 10.9 per cent on Monday. The rate is fixed for five years. At the end of the period borrowers will be given the option of taking out another fixed-rate mortgage.

There is an arrangement fee of £100, and anyone who wants to ditch the fixed rate will have to pay a penalty of three months' interest. Only those who move home and take out a fresh TSB mortgage will escape the penalty.

The Midland is also offering fixed-rate mortgages at 11.2 per cent (an APR of 11.8) from Monday. The rate will be fixed for three years and the mortgage must be for a minimum of £30,000 linked to a Midland endowment or pension policy.

At the moment the Midland has a summer sale on endowment mortgages negotiated before July 29. The rate will be reduced by 0.5 percentage points for the first year. This brings down the rate to 10.8 per cent.

But the building societies are delaying the announcement of their new, higher, rates. These will be set later this month for implementation on August 1.

The Halifax, Britain's largest

est building society, still says it expects to set a rate between 10.75 and 11.25 per cent. The bank rates look expensive in this light.

But banks, like the new lenders, are more dependent on interest rates than building societies as they get their funds in the money markets, while building societies look to retail funds from savers.

At the moment the societies are enjoying record receipts, so they may be able to undercut the banks.

Mortgage lenders are also

TSB offers fixed-rate loan for five years

tightening up slightly on the amounts they will lend to couples and groups when the August 1 deadline for multiple tax relief has passed.

Many will still be offering relatively lenient terms for joint purchasers, although it is likely these will be linked to special schemes deferring part of the interest payments in the early years of the mortgage.

UCB Home Loans Corporation has relaunched its Leo mortgage, which previously offered to lend up to 3.25 times joint incomes to joint purchasers, plus one times any other salaries involved. Up to four people can borrow together for one property.

That has been replaced by a slightly reduced income multiple of three times two joint salaries plus once the other salaries. A couple can borrow three times their combined earnings.

Repayments in the first five years are reduced by deferral of part of the interest. A portion is added to

the capital amount outstanding.

This type of scheme is quite common in the mortgage market now but there is a danger that the amount outstanding after the period of deferred interest can in the end be more than the property is worth.

David Zerdin, UCB's marketing manager says the company will not lend more than 95 per cent of a property's value to help avoid this.

As long as house price inflation remains high it is unlikely that borrowers will be caught out. "But we keep a close eye on what is happening," he said.

Mr Zerdin says the change reflects the reduction in mortgage interest relief available to unmarried joint purchasers after August 1.

The income multiples on the new product, called Leo II, are still heavy compared with what many lenders will advance, but Mr Zerdin says: "Our vetting procedures are very tough. We have quite a high rejection rate."

He believes the end of multiple mortgage interest relief will make only a marginal difference to borrowers' ability to pay.

With mortgage interest relief being restricted, and higher mortgage rates on the

way, the Town & Country Building Society seemed to be out of step with other lenders when it announced this week that it would be adopting a much more flexible approach in deciding how much to lend.

"Managers have been given discretion to exceed normal income multiples if an individual applicant is able to demonstrate an ability to repay mortgages outside the normal lending criteria," said the society in its announcement.

Stephen Dilworth, the assis-

Flexible approach on how much to lend

tant general manager, said branch managers had been given discretion over income multiples for groups of single buyers after the Budget ruling that interest relief would be restricted.

They had not been told to tighten up after August 1 but a rise in the mortgage rate would affect managers' attitudes to what they would lend.

Voice for the private investor

Gordon Campbell, right, from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, is to be the lone voice of the private investor at the Stock Exchange.

This 51-year-old, who started investing on the Stock Exchange two or three years ago when he had a lump sum after being made redundant from his job as a quality manager with ICL, has been elected to be the chairman of the Stock Exchange Investors' Club.

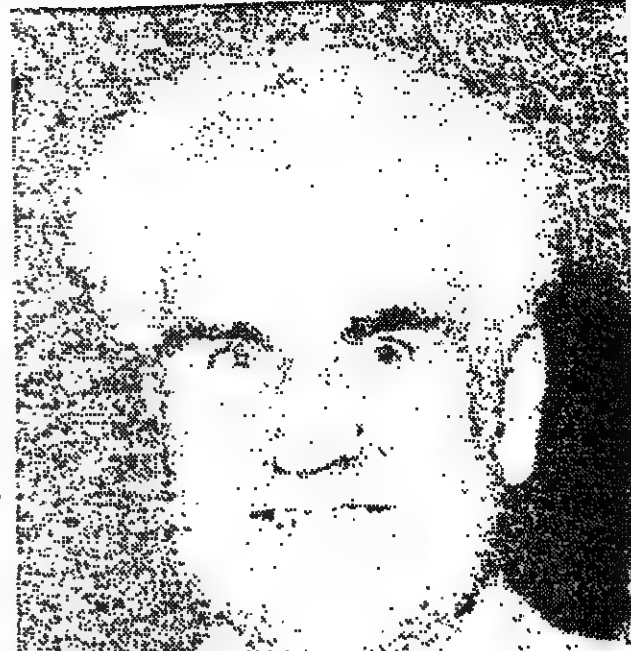
As such he merits a seat on the International Stock Exchange chairman's Investors' Advisory Group.

This group, which has the ear of the chairman, has been exclusively an institutional preserve up to now. So it is quite a concession for the Stock Exchange to allow the voice of the private investor to be heard at all.

"I have some quite strong views," says Mr Campbell, who hopes to start his own business.

After being made redundant he took some investment courses. "I took an interest in the learning curve," he says.

He claims not to have been carried away by the bull market and to have survived last October's crash in quite



good shape. "I have held on to my shares," he says.

The other members of the committee, elected in a postal ballot, are Donald Cobbert, from London, and Kevin Goldstein-Jackson, from Poole, Dorset.

The club, which is one year old today, has about 3,200 members. About 1,000 of them came via an offer of free membership from Fidelity when it launched its share-dealing service.

Membership normally costs £15 a year. Members receive a

quarterly magazine, *Stock-market*, and seminars are held around the country to discuss investment topics and meet stockbrokers in an informal setting.

Members are also told that they can ring the Stock Exchange for advice about procedure, although, in fact, any Stock Exchange investor would be given general advice on ringing the Wide Share Ownership Unit.

The club will not give specific advice or stock market tips.

Prudential Property Services, the estate agency arm of the Prudential Corporation, is launching a surveying package from its network of 767 estate agencies.

But to avoid the possibility of conflicts of interest it will not be available for any property being bought through the Prudential.

The service, called Home Check, offers prospective purchasers a survey that is halfway between a basic lender's valuation and a full structural survey. The cost of a Home Check report will vary, depending on the characteristics of the property such as age and size. But it is likely to range from £180 to £450.

Abbey National sends out the case for plc status

Members of the Abbey National Building Society are about to be bombarded with campaign literature ahead of the vote on making the society a public limited company.

The Abbey is sending all 6.5 million members eligible to vote a letter setting out the society's reasons for wanting to convert, and a series of questions and answers designed to dispel any misconceptions.

The four reasons the Abbey gives for converting are:

● As a plc the Abbey would have greater flexibility and freedom to provide new or different services. "We cannot afford to be too slow or too late," it says.

● The Abbey needs to be able to raise extra capital more easily and economically. The capital is needed for larger branches and more automation.

● The Abbey needs to ensure a steady flow of funds for mortgages at competitive rates. "The flow should be better protected against sudden economic changes," it says.

● And lastly, the Abbey says it needs to be able to meet competition from American, Japanese and European financial institutions, which can enter our market. After 1992 the European Community will open the doors to free competition among member states in financial services. "As a plc we would be better protected against sudden economic changes," says the Abbey.

Among the questions that the Abbey itself poses is: How

'The cons are just brushed aside'

can members be expected to vote in an informed way if they are to be given merely a single recommendation by the board?

Its answer is that meetings will be held throughout the country, and as well as pointing out the advantages of turning into a plc, the advantages of staying a mutual organization will also be pointed out.

But, predictably, the members of Abbey Members Against Flotation (AMAF) are not satisfied with this.

"None of the cons are provided as such, though a few are touched on and brushed aside. The board knows best, and continues to resist any attempts to tell members, whose decision it must be, of

arguments which conflict with the board's view," says the group.

It argues that the key issue is evaded by the Abbey: "As a mutual building society or plc, they have a duty to provide adequate reserves. When running the society for members, any surpluses have to be applied for the members' benefit. For a plc dividends for shareholders have to be taken from those same surpluses. Members can only suffer."



Alexander Sandison: surprised

Alexander Sandison, vice-chairman of AMAF, says he does not believe that Sir Campbell Adamson and the rest of the Abbey board accept that the philosophical differences between a mutual and a plc are important.

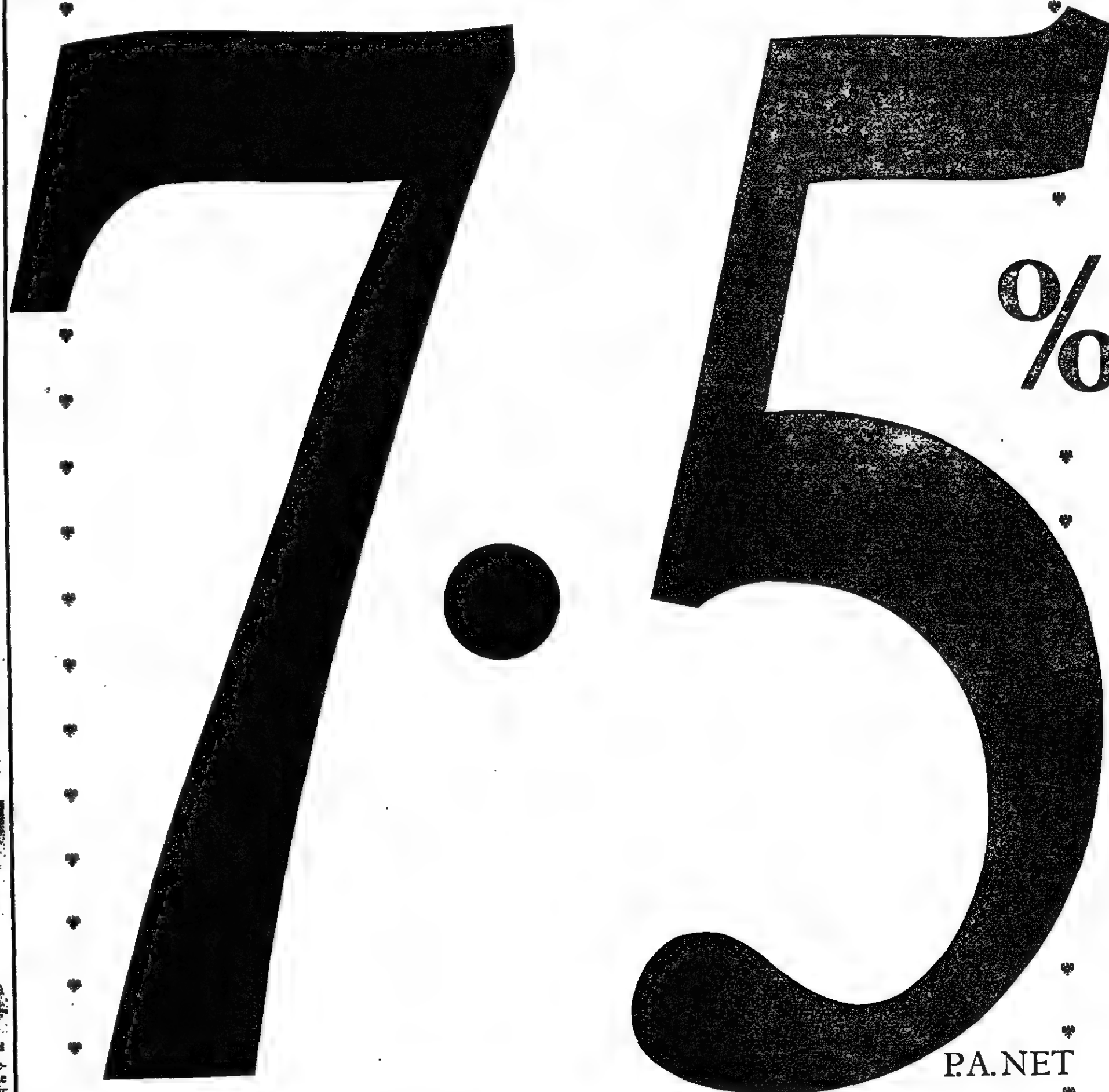
"A mutual is a different animal from a plc, run for the benefit of its shareholders," he says. "I find the statement that there will be no change in policy a bit surprising. The change in status is a substantial one, and if they go ahead with it, there ought to be substantial changes."

Mr Sandison also questioned the position of Abbey mortgage-holders, who do not stand to get any hand-out of cash or shares on a flotation of the society.

If the flotation is to go ahead, 20 per cent of Abbey's investors must vote, and 75 per cent of those voting must vote in favour. Borrowers also have a vote, but all that is required from them is a simple majority in favour of the flotation.

AMAF meets at Friends' House, Euston Road, London NW1, at 2.30pm next Saturday. The organization will adopt a constitution and plan its course of action, which could still include forcing an extraordinary general meeting on the Abbey.

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Signature(s)

Date



FAMILY MONEY

Some Afcor creditors may lose every penny

Some investors in the failed share dealer and market maker Afcor Investments are unlikely to get back a penny, according to Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the accountants handling the receivership.

After the company went into receivership on May 4 there were fears that Afcor's funds would fall far short of the amount needed to refund the small investors who were owed money.

Paul Davis, a manager in Deloitte's insolvency department, said: "We don't believe the unsecured creditors are going to get anything."

Secured creditors would receive part of the amount owed to them "but whether they receive total repayment is unclear". About 1,500 former Afcor clients registered claims against the company, mostly for uncompleted deals. They were believed to be owed a total of about £2 million.

However, the investigators have been unable to establish precisely what Afcor's total debt is.

"The records of Afcor are totally inadequate and very unreliable," said Mr Davis. "The amount owed to creditors is constantly moving upwards and the amount owed by

debtors is constantly moving downwards."

The Afcor directors had not produced the statement on the company's financial position required of them by law, and this, said Mr Davis, was probably because the records were inadequate.

The most common complaint from investors was about difficulties over receiving certificates for shares they had bought.

Deloitte is now producing a report on its findings for creditors and copies will be available at the creditors' meeting, which is to be held in the Burleigh Suite of the Strand Palace Hotel, The Strand, London, at 11am on July 25. Copies are available before then from Deloitte at 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX.

A compensation scheme is being set up under the Financial Services Act and is due to be in place by August 27. But this will be too late for Afcor investors. And at present it is intended that the fund will not be open to those who have lost money through companies that are trading with interim authorization under the Act, as Afcor was.

Maria Scott

Pain-free legal bills

Last month Joe Lacey (not his real name) finally received a £7,000 cheque from his marine insurance company — an out-of-court settlement for the value of his ski boat, outboard motor, trailer and two wet-suits that were stolen last summer.

It took almost a year and the help of a solicitor to persuade the insurance company to pay out after the boat Joe had only recently part-exchanged was unhit with its trailer from the back of his car.

Fortunately for Joe, not only did the intervention of a solicitor prevent him having to fund a replacement boat out of his own pocket, but the solicitor's bill, which includes seeking counsel's opinion, will be met in full by the legal expenses insurance policy that cost Joe less than £10 a year.

A young couple also have legal expenses insurance to thank for speeding their claim against a tour operator after a foreign holiday that started off on the wrong foot when the flight was delayed and became a disaster because the hotel was still under construction and the swimming pool was non-existent. Their insurance backing helped to bring that claim to a successful and relatively fuss-free conclusion.

Both the couple and Joe Lacey are convinced that without the backing and help of their legal expenses policies they would probably not have pursued their cases as far as they did — through fear of landing themselves with unknown legal costs or of getting involved in a time-consuming, but cheap, DIY law case.

In both cases their income was too high to qualify for legal aid. The maximum disposable income, after tax, mortgage payments, work expenses and other items that allows a legal aid claim is £5,765 a year; and even at this modest level, claimants are expected to pay a contribution towards their legal expenses out of their own pockets.

Most companies offer at least two versions of a policy: ● A full-blown, stand-alone policy, which provides wide-ranging protection for claims you or your family may want to pursue as motorists, consumers, employees, owner-occupiers or tenants, or as

defendants in actions taken by others, or

● A much narrower, and cheaper, policy, usually sold through brokers as an "add-on" to motor or house insurance, covering uninsured loss recovery (ULR) after a motor accident and/or legal expense cover for consumer and personal injury claims and defence of motor prosecutions.

The National Consumer Council points out: "Different companies have different exceptions and present informa-

tion is available from DAS, at £30 a year. Allianz and IRPC offer more generous comprehensive stand-alone policies at £68 and £70 a year respectively. The IRPC policy is unusual in that it covers disputes connected with wills and inheritance.

The variety in claims limits, geographical coverage, exclusions and other aspects is such that anyone contemplating buying one of these comprehensive family legal expenses policies should study

The coin will have to come out of your own pocket, I'm afraid



the policy documents before making a final decision.

Most of these stand-alone legal expenses insurance policies make buying an add-on legal expenses policy — attached to either your car or house insurance — unnecessary. Both types of policy usually provide a round-the-clock telephone legal advice service. This helps both you and the insurance company to decide whether it is worth pursuing your case, whether it is a problem covered by your policy, or indeed if you have a legal problem at all.

For a mere £5 to £7 a year a basic motor legal expenses add-on policy provides the wherewithal to pursue uninsured losses after a car accident — for example, the policy excess — and so protect your no-claims bonus. It also covers the legal costs of pursuing a claim for damages if you, the car driver, are injured in the accident.

Many companies now offer

slightly more de luxe versions of this add-on policy — perhaps including discount car hire, Europe-wide cover, free vehicle recovery, round-the-clock legal advice telephone line, windscreen service — costing no more than £1 or £2 extra a year.

The add-on legal expenses policies which are available alongside household policies usually cover consumer contracts above a certain value and compensation for personal injury or death of you or a family member, other than as a car driver. Add-on motor or full legal expenses policy covers such claims as a car driver.

They are also cheap — around £7 or £8 a year. Motorists Legal Protection, Allianz, IRPC, Hambro Legal Protection and DAS all offer versions of this type of policy.

The low cost of add-on policies can give better value because they are sold alongside other policies whose policyholders are not "self-selected" in seeking out legal expenses cover specifically. The companies argue that anyone particularly eager for legal expenses cover is more likely to make a claim on the policy and push up costs.

With both types of policies it is up to the insurance company to decide whether to pursue your case. Some insist on using their own lawyers and others leave the choice open.

Once the insurance company recommends you withdraw from the action or refuses to back you, if you go ahead yourself, you are liable for any subsequent legal costs. Only if your judgment proves correct and you subsequently win the case will the insurance company agree to pay the legal fees — heads they win, tails you lose! And that is assuming the problem is covered by the policy in the first place.

One thing to bear in mind when buying any kind of legal expenses insurance is that if you are faced with the need to go to law, then the very fact that you have a legal expenses policy covering that problem will preclude you from claiming legal aid, even if you qualify.

Janice Allen



Working holiday: sometimes the employment is manual

How to find the holidays that pay

How does a student choose, and get, the right holiday job?

Is pay the most important? You can earn £41 per week without paying National Insurance contributions, £2,605 (single) a year without tax, and, under present regulations, as much as you like without affecting your grant. Any unearned income over £491 such as building society interest will cost you £1 off your grant for each £1 of interest received.

If want to improve your skills, learn new ones or take your first career steps, you could take an intensive typing or word-processing course, then sign on with an agency.

Some agencies, including Adair International (01-734 9582), offer training free if you have keyboard skills and a minimum of 40 words a minute and can stay two months. London temp secretaries earn around £5 an hour for copy-typing, £8 for word-processing.

If you offer to type theses in your own university, make sure you are paid as you proceed. Students wanting part-time work only might apply to turf accountants William Hill (01-620 0284), which offer £25 for five afternoons weekly, including Saturdays. Rates for teaching English, often in tourism-related jobs, depend on qualifications and area. They pay £80-£160 a week in London and £75-£120 in Newcastle upon Tyne. Check whether you have to combine teaching with youth activity or

supervision; whether board and lodging is provided, and, if not, its cost.

Water sports are growing in popularity. So are activity camps for children, but they are often more fun than money-makers. Sports coaching pays better. The rewards are from £115 a week less £35-£40 bed and breakfast at Eastbourne, East Sussex, £50 a week with £25 for board and lodging in Matlock, Derbyshire, and £50 a week with free board and lodging in Northumberland, down to £20 a week in Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

For outdoor work camping facilities are often provided, but a deposit may be asked, refundable if you last four weeks or more. Pay is £10-£12 per day in Scotland, £7-£20 per hour in Somerset and Cornwall.

Many employers now use holiday periods to find and train good future employees. Students gain too. They boost their incomes and get the chance of trying out different jobs or vocations.

Students with covenanted income will discover that their personal allowance is already used up, so they will pay tax on every penny earned.

Jennie Hawthorne

A list of holiday jobs, where and how to apply, is outlined in *Vacation Traineeships for Students*, by David Leppard, and in *Summer Jobs Britain 1988*, by Susan Griffiths, both published at £3.95 by Vacation Work, 9 Park End Square, Oxford OX1 1HJ (0865 241978).

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FAMILY MONEY

Taxman's new tests



Taxpayers have become worried in recent months by the extensive and growing powers of the Inland Revenue investigator, with his Gladstone bag and his early morning doorstep appearances.

The Revenue's latest powers, outlined in the new Finance Bill, offer a fresh opportunity to judge whether the taxman is performing his public duty properly.

In the public interest he tries to enable the correct tax to be collected, and for the sake of individual liberty he tries to provide safeguards against unwarranted intrusion into personal privacy or abuse of power. His duty may be defined as balancing the two functions.

The Chancellor's proposals will extend the tax inspector's power to obtain information, while widening the scope of the penalty regulations.

This is a small step, but a significant one. For a start, Nigel Lawson intends to increase the penalty for "failure to notify chargeability" from £100 a year — an absurdly low and anachronistic figure — to a maximum of 100 per cent of the tax in issue.

It will also become an offence to fail to inform the Revenue of any new source of income by the first anniversary of the end of the year of assessment. Previously one had only to inform the Revenue of chargeability to income tax as a whole.

As so often with the Revenue, the complaint is not directed at the proposal — which is sensible — but at the manner of its introduction.

In future, if the Revenue fails to issue a return to an individual — and most PAYE

taxpayers receive one only every five or six years — the responsibility for declaring income will rest squarely on the taxpayer. He will in effect have to exercise more care about new sources of income than, say, his colleague, who has received a return.

This has not been adequately publicized. It will expose millions of people, including many who are unaware of their liability, and some who do not even have a tax return, to the penalty regime. Those in dispute with the Revenue automatically start their battle in a penalty situation.

The authority to request details

Similar alterations will be applied to the penalty regime for Capital Gains Tax and Corporation Tax.

The Bill also proposes to extend Revenue powers so that officials can summon information from three previously untapped sources.

FIRST, the Revenue will have the authority to request details from other government departments of payments for services to consultants, grants paid and the names of business licence holders such as taxi-drivers and market-stall holders. It appears, however, that the Revenue will still not be allowed access to information regarded as "sensitive", such as the Ministry of Agriculture's annual census form.

SECOND, the National Savings Bank will be required to supply information about a named taxpayer, bringing it into line with other banks.

THIRD, the Chancellor pro-

poses to extend the powers on third-party information. At present the Revenue usually calls for information from a third party only on named taxpayers, but in future it will be able to approach a tax avoidance scheme promoter for his customers' names.

What are we to make of these new powers? The first point to stress is the quite proper and beneficial effect they will have in the assessment of liability to tax, although one might regard the tax avoidance measure as unnecessary now that the case of Ramsey vs CIR has killed most avoidance schemes.

The second is to welcome the safeguards welded to these investigative powers: the measures cannot simply be sanctioned by an inspector, but must have the approval of the board and a special commissioner.

Given the worries that tax practitioners have expressed over what they have regarded as the Revenue's cavalier attitude, all this is mildly reassuring.

Yet, seen in the context of the 1983 Keith Committee Report, from which these powers derive, the picture is less satisfactory. Keith proposed a "balanced package", giving equal weight to the public interest and individual liberty aspects of the Revenue's task.

These new powers, and the constraint placed on them, may well constitute such a piece of balance. Nevertheless, their introduction has been part of a piecemeal and desultory process.

Certain measures that are intended to protect individual rights still linger on the shelf.

Perhaps the most important is the thorny question of legal privilege for accountants and tax advisers.

This is opposed by the Revenue, which has the initiative in new legislation. Continuing public and professional concern over the Revenue's activities will not be allayed until it shows equivalent concern for individual privacy and protection.

Two cheers only for the Revenue this time.

Jeremy Allan
Tax partner with
accountants Arthur Young

The cost is still going up

I was interested in the article about travellers' cheques on July 9 since I have just returned from abroad. The problem is not confined to visitors to the UK as travellers' cheques appear to cost an increasing amount to cash. The origin of travellers' cheques was the relatively safe way of carrying money.

Obviously, an issuing charge has to be paid. In my experience, however, banks cashing such cheques are increasing their charges, particularly their minimum charges. Thus it becomes economically necessary to cash larger sums. This, of course, defeats the object of safety of money in travellers' cheques, since a large amount of foreign cash is now in one's pocket.

Last week in Messina I found a bureau offering a very good exchange rate and no deduction. However, in Taormina, a tourist centre, one bank charged a minimum of 1,500 lire (63p), another a minimum of 1,000 lire (42p). Since at that stage I needed £10 only, I changed a sterling £10 note and obtained a better rate with no charges. This seems a ludicrous situation and can be repeated throughout the world.

You may care to publish this letter. See the reaction of the banking fraternity and what they offer as alternatives to travellers regarding the carrying of money abroad.

S.A. GROVER,
New Eham, London SE9.

Last year at the Royal Bank of Canada branch by the Bay Centre at Yonge and Bloor in Toronto, I was charged \$2 for changing Canadian dollar

LETTERS

travellers' cheques, from the Midland Bank, into cash.

Why the song and dance about Andrew Hatherley (Family Money, July 9) having to do the same over here? I just will not favour that bank with my custom again.

Mrs M.M. NICHOLLS,
Barnfield,
Iwer,
Buckinghamshire.

Thank you for allowing Simon Rose to highlight some of the hassle encountered by users of travellers' cheques.

I have recently been conducting my own mini-campaign both with the National Westminster Bank and a num-

ber of stores, including Liberty's in London. Harrods, as always, came up trumps and accepted sterling travellers' cheques without question.

My point has always been that particularly as I am in the travel business I often have sterling travellers' cheques left over from visits abroad and I cannot understand why shops and stores will not accept sterling travellers' cheques without a passport here in the UK. I have even tried giving credit cards as proof of identity.

JIM DUNN,
Managing Director,
TPS Public Relations,
London SW1.

Our cash abroad

My wife and I both have modest portfolios. We are old age pensioners and as such are seriously considering a permanent move to France.

If we were to retain these equities, would dividends be paid abroad? What about the tax vouchers? Would they be paid without deduction? I should be glad to have your views.

J.P. MONNIOT,
Mill Road,
Crawley,
West Sussex.

Assuming that you are a British subject, you will still be entitled to a tax credit on your UK dividends when you become permanently resident in France. Under these circumstances, your liability to UK tax on such dividends is limited to 15 per cent of the dividend received plus the tax credit, so that you can in effect reclaim 10 per cent of the "grossed up" dividends from the UK Revenue.

This can be done by

completing a special claim form, which can be obtained from the Revenue once your status as a UK non-resident has been established. The claim will need to be supported by the relevant dividend vouchers.

I understand that the dividends will have to be taken into account for French tax purposes. French tax may be chargeable on the amount of the dividends plus the relevant tax credits, but with double tax relief available for the 15 per cent of UK tax charged as above.

The answers to your queries are that dividends would be paid in France exactly as before and tax vouchers would be issued as before and would be required to support UK tax payment claims.

If you are not a British subject you will not be entitled to the tax credit when you go to France and it will not therefore be possible to reclaim any UK tax. I understand that French tax would still be charged as described above.

Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. Published replies marked with a triangle symbol are by Bill Packer, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, in association with *The Times*. However, no legal responsibility can be accepted for any advice or statements in these columns. Independent professional advice should be sought.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 29).

Share No.	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Week Total
1	+4	+2	+4	+4	+4		
2	+4	+6	+2	+7	+6		
3	+6	+5	+7	+5	+4		
4	+7	+5	+2	+5	+5		
5	+6	+2	+3	+3	+4		
6	+6	+4	+2	+7	+5		
7	+3	+7	+1	+7	+5		
8	+5	+4	+6	+6	+4		
9	+5	+5	+1	+7	+5		
10	+5	+3	+4	+4	+3		
11	+5	+4	+5	+6	+3		
12	+4	+1	+3	+3	+3		
13	+7	+6	+3	+7	+4		
14	+6	+3	+7	+3	+5		
15	+3	+6	+3	+6	+5		
16	+8	+4	+1	+6	+6		
17	+6	+2	+4	+3	+3		
18	+7	+4	+6	+4	+3		
19	+5	+3	+5	+5	+5		
20	+3	+7	+2	+7	+5		
21	+5	+1	+5	+5	+3		
22	+6	+1	+5	+5	+6		
23	+5	+5	+2	+7	+7		
24	+5	+3	+5	+5	+4		
25	+7	+6	+2	+5	+5		
26	+5	+4	+7	+5	+4		
27	+4	+3	+4	+4	+5		
28	+4	+6	+2	+8	+5		
29	+7	+4	+6	+4	+4		
30	+8	+5	+3	+7	+4		
31	+4	+5	+1	+8	+6		
32	+7	+3	+5	+4	+5		
33	+6	+2	+1	+5	+6		
34	+5	+2	+3	+4	+4		
35	+4	+5	+2	+7	+7		
36	+6	+5	+5	+5	+4		
37	+7	+5	+3	+8	+5		
38	+3	+5	+3	+5	+5		
39	+6	+1	+3	+3	+5		
40	+7	+4	+2	+5	+5		
41	+4	+2	+5	+5	+5		
42	+4	+5	+2	+5	+5		
43	+8	+4	+1	+8	+4		
44	+8	+5	+5	+5	+3		

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PROLIFIC'S INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE OVER 5 YEARS TO 1st JULY 1988.

Prolific unit trust (Sector)	Quartile in sector
Special Situations (UK Growth)	1st
High Income (UK Equity Income)	1st
Convertible & Gilt (Gilt & Fixed Interest Income)	1st
International (International Growth)	2nd
North American (North American)	2nd
Technology (International Growth, sub-sector: Technology)	3rd
Far Eastern (Far Eastern)	1st
American Income (International Income) — since launch: 11.11.1985	3rd
Extra Income (Mixed Income) — since launch: 13.10.1984	1st
European (European) — since launch: 15.11.1986	1st

Source: Opal Statistics as at 1st July 1988. Offer to bid, net income reinvested.

Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

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1 to 2

FAMILY MONEY

Orange badge cars face the squeeze

Nearly one in 20 cars now sports an orange badge, allowing the driver to ignore parking restrictions with impunity.

The increased number of badges, the increasing amount of abuse and inconsiderate parking have all led to serious traffic problems, so it is understandable that the Department of Transport is under pressure to bring in reforms.

Proposed changes are expected to be announced within the next few weeks.

The Orange Badge Scheme (OBS) allows valuable parking concessions for people with disabilities who travel either as drivers or passengers, and

parks. Badge-holders may even be exempted from toll charges at certain river crossings. No wonder the badges are so prized.

Orange badges are available from your local authority social services department if:

- You receive Mobility Allowance
- You use a motor vehicle supplied by a government department or are receiving a grant towards your own vehicle
- You are registered blind
- You have a permanent and substantial disability that prevents you from walking or means you have considerable difficulty in walking.

Some councils set aside parking areas

for registered blind people. The scheme enables badge-holders to park nearer to their destination than would otherwise be possible. Vehicles with orange badges are not normally wheel-clamped and badge-holders are often allowed access to town centres, where ordinarily vehicle access is restricted.

In some areas local authorities provide special parking places for badge-holders, or waive charges in public car

In this latter case, a badge may be awarded at the discretion of the local authority and you may be required to obtain confirmation from your family doctor that you satisfy the conditions.

The scheme obviously benefits those people with disabilities who genuinely have difficulty in being sufficiently mobile to lead any life and, clearly, it dovetails with the Government's commitment to "care in the community".

However, it is abused widely. It is difficult to measure the extent of the abuse, but the Department of Transport has found that able-bodied people, who may be related to badge-holders, abuse the system. People with disabilities themselves sometimes abuse the system, or park illegally without realizing it, or simply park inconsiderately and cause traffic problems. Some local authorities have expressed concern about the effects on traffic of parking by orange badge-holders — especially on busy shopping days — and there are also problems when badge-holders

Misuse can lead to withdrawal

seek access to some pedestrianized areas.

There was a 17 per cent increase in the number of badges in circulation in the three years to 1986 when the Department of Transport started to consider tightening up the system.

Various ideas have been raised. For example, orange badges could be issued for a maximum of three years or for the period of the Mobility



Allowance award, whichever is the shorter.

More generously, the ministry is also considering including the receipt of War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement as an automatic passport to the scheme. In contrast, the ministry has suggested that blind people should have access to the scheme only if they have considerable mobility problems.

The ministry is worried that doctors may be too lax for fear that if an application for a badge is not supported the relationship with the patient may be prejudiced.

Local authorities are allowed to withdraw an orange badge if it is persistently misused by the holder or by other people with the holder's consent. The ministry has suggested the badges should be taken away after one serious offence. Many people believe that a badge-holder abuses the scheme if he remains in the car, while an able-bodied companion shops.

Charles Jackson

Spain sets timeshare controls

The Spanish government is establishing general guidelines on how timeshare is to be controlled in Spain.

A draft bill, similar to a British Government White Paper, is already in existence, implying that it is the *escritura* system that should take precedence over the "club membership" scheme.

Escritura means that a purchaser has his weeks registered in the local land registry, with the proportion of time owned attributable as his share of the property. So, an owner of four weeks would have a one-twelfth share in the property involved.

This can lead to all sorts of complications on resale, not least the fact that essential legal costs incurred on a resale are high — between 8 and 10 per cent before commission — while selling on a club share is a straightforward commercial transaction, bypassing any "property" sale.

But the Spanish authorities, or indeed any authority, gain revenue every time a week is sold involving an *escritura*



Rupert Leschen "Bureaucracy"

transfer, which is not the case with the club system. About 2,750 Britons buy into timeshare every month, and the majority of overseas weeks are in Spain and the Canary Islands.

The Spanish authorities fear any publicity on the rights and wrongs of the *escritura* versus the club system will only give rise to scare stories out of all proportion to their true worth. As the Spanish consultations are at such a preliminary level, no timeshare owner need

worry about the legality of his particular ownership.

The Timeshare Developers Association, Britain's official timeshare organization, welcomes all positive steps to clear up misapprehension about timeshare, but it is the industry itself that must keep its house in order.

So legislation by the Spanish government provided it is positive, could be welcomed, but to dismiss the club system out of hand would surely be totally impractical because this is the way most timeshare is sold.

On the Costa del Sol, the UK house-builders Wimpey and Barratt and the Irish company McInerney all use the club system to register ownership. Wimpey's resale problems on Tenerife, highlighted by Family Money earlier this year, were all to do with the high costs involved in legally transferring the *escritura* to new ownership.

Rupert Leschen, a partner in London solicitors Withers Crossman Block, specializes in timeshare and his firm acts

for several reputable developers, which have established or are establishing timeshare resorts in Spain and Portugal.

Mr Leschen says: "If the *escritura* system is going to become dominant, there may have to be changes in documentation. This is what solicitors will be working out for their corporate clients in the future, but as yet no one knows the precise details."

"The downside of the change could well entail more bureaucracy and a more rigid system when transferring property."

The Spanish government, however, does appear to be taking a determined line with its new draft proposals because the lack of regulations in the past has lost revenue to the treasury in the form of corporation tax. If a developer buys a property for £50,000 and sells on a timeshare basis for, say, £150,000-plus outside Spain, the consequences for the Spanish government in lost taxation is obvious.

Diana Wildman

BRIEFING

National Savings at 7.5%

National Savings smartened up its appearance this week with an issue of certificates paying 7.5 per cent tax-free over five years. This 34th issue replaces the 33rd, which paid 7 per cent.

It goes on sale next Friday, and there is a £1,000 limit on the amount that can be invested. The exception is for investors cashing in matured certificates — they can invest an extra £5,000. They have a good incentive to switch because the rate paid on matured certificates is remaining at 5.01 per cent.

The rate on the Yearly Plan rises from 7 to 7.5 per cent, tax-free. Twelve monthly payments of a maximum £200 are invested in this and the plan takes another four years to mature.

For taxpayers the best buy among National Savings products is the 4th issue index-linked certificates, paying 4.04 percentage points above inflation.

New service

Oceans Asset Management, a corporate finance company based in Ipswich, Suffolk, has set up a stockbroking service for private investors. There is an execution-only service and an advice service with separate commission rates. The minimum commission on both is £20 for UK securities and £30 for overseas securities.

Commission is 1 per cent on the first £7,000, execution only, 0.5 per cent on the next £25,000, and a negotiated rate beyond that. Rates on the advice service are the same except for the first £7,000, which is 1.65 per cent.

Oceans is a full authorized member of The Securities Association.

Finance guide

Personal Facts, a booklet published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, is designed to help you to keep your personal financial records in order. It is also intended to be a guide to anyone who might need to delve into your affairs if you die or are taken ill suddenly. The booklet lists the information that might be needed in the situation, such as mortgage documents and life assurance and pension policies, and suggests you fill in the details. *Personal Facts* costs £1 and is available from Accountancy, 40 Bernard Street, London WC1N 1LD (01-633 3281).

Timely gift

First-year students are being offered a voice-control

alarm clock as part of the Bank of Scotland's student banking package. Students can have a current or deposit account. Those over 18 are offered a Bank of Scotland Visa card, which also acts as a cheque guarantee card, and overdrafts up to £200.

Learning young

US 22 is a small company in Tonbridge, Kent, supplying engraved glassware to sports clubs or anyone else wanting a glass to mark a special occasion. The company, set up in September, made a first-year profit of £800 on a turnover of just over £2,000. A company called YES, in Aberdeenshire, made £1,000

on a £2,500 turnover out of a game called Options.

But the directors have a level and first-year university commitments ahead of them, so the future of their ventures is uncertain. Both companies have gained prizes in a competition to find the best out of the 25,000 teenagers' businesses started last year through the Young Enterprise scheme, sponsored by the Midland Bank. YES won first prize, and US 22 third. HiLis, a Guernsey-based venture making a board game, took second place, and fourth went to Hieroglyphics, an all-girl team from Suffolk, whose company supplied personal stationery to schoolmates and teachers.



Managing director, Guy Critchlow, of US 22, with product

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CYCLING

Delgado's grip tightens on lead

From John Wilcockson
Villard-de-Lans, France

In the most impressive performance of his career, Pedro Delgado, of Spain, won the thirteenth stage time trial of the Tour de France yesterday to strengthen his grip on the leader's yellow jersey.

Delgado, aged 28, from Segovia, was fastest throughout the difficult 23.5-mile climb of 3,000ft from Grenoble to the Vercors Plateau, which contains two climbs as well as two flat sections, each five miles long.

The javelin-deflected Jean-François Bernard, the fallen French hero, by 44 seconds, while Steve Bauer, the former race leader, was sixth, almost three minutes behind, losing his second place overall to Steven Rooks, of the Netherlands.

The cool, windy conditions were not expected to favour Delgado, who finished only seventh in the recent Tour of Italy, a race in which the Spaniard lost time on those stages affected by rain and cold. But yesterday the man in the yellow jersey gambled everything on establishing a convincing lead.

Unlike any of his opponents, he used a rear disc wheel, and was already the fastest after the opening five miles through the streets of Grenoble.

At this point Bauer was strongly defending his second place and was only six seconds slower than Delgado but the brave Canadian, whose stocky build is not suited to climbing, lost time on the two hills and arrived at the finish with a deficit of two minutes 37 seconds on Delgado.

Rooks, who quit the Tour of Italy when in eighth place overall, is getting stronger and stronger in this race. The Dutchman has for long been considered an excellent rider in the Tour de France, but his best performance in a major tour was ninth in the Tour de France two years ago.

British followers will also remember his second place last year in the first day of the Tour of Britain. Not even expected to be challenging for victory at the Tour de France.

Rooks now lies two minutes 47 seconds behind Delgado, with Bauer a menacing 11 seconds behind him in third place.

Outside these three, the leading riders all conceded considerable time yesterday, and it is difficult to see anyone else challenging Delgado in the Pyrenees stages which start tomorrow after a transfer by airplane today from Grenoble to Toulouse.

Sean Kelly again rode below par, losing seven more minutes to Delgado, while British riders, Sean Yates, Malcolm Elliott and Robert Millar, were all faster than the Irishman. Adding to Kelly's troubles was the death yesterday morning of Luis Knorr, the managing director of KAS, his Spanish team sponsor.

All of the team riders wore a black patch on their racing jerseys as a mark of respect.

RESULTS: Thirteenth stage (time trial from Grenoble to Villard-de-Lans, 23.5 miles). 1. P. Delgado (ESP) 42m 44.5s; 2. J. F. Bernard (FRA) 44m 33s; 3. S. Bauer (GER) 45m 22s; 4. E. Basso (ITA) 46m 10s; 5. P. Rooks (NED) 46m 47s; 6. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 7. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 8. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 9. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 10. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 11. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 12. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 13. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 14. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 15. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 16. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 17. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 18. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 19. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 20. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 21. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 22. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 23. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 24. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 25. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 26. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 27. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 28. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 29. J. S. Rooks (NED) 47m 10s; 30. J. S. 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Champion and partners told to hurry along

By Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent

Nick Faldo, the Open Champion, yesterday called the "slowest man on earth." The accusation came after Faldo and his partners, Ian Baker-Finch and Fred Couples, had been warned by an official that they were falling behind in the second round at Lytham.

They spent four and a half hours on their round — 25 minutes longer than the target recommended by the Royal and Ancient.

Faldo was the subject of an on-course inquiry during the 1987 Open. Paul Azinger, the American who partnered Faldo in the third round then, said when he heard of the rebuke yesterday: "We took four and a quarter hours then as a two-ball and the same again when we were paired together in the US Open last month."

"I'm not the fastest man on earth, but I'm quick compared with him. He takes such a long time on the greens. He's the slowest man on earth."

The R and A announced before the Championship that it would not tolerate slow play. Alistair Low, the chair-

Faldo makes haste slowly towards second success

By David Miller

Tennis players and goalkeepers in football bounce the ball endlessly and irritably. Cricketers take 35-yard delivery run-ups. High jumpers rock back and forth interminably like pendulums. Golfers manœuvre the greens and throw grass up in the air.

Professional sportsmen playing the percentages are nowadays so introspective they can disrupt their own impetus, never mind the crowd's enjoyment.

Nick Faldo, the defending Open Champion, has tossed enough straw in the air at Royal Lytham these past two days to fill a small mattress. Testing the wind is one thing, but this is surely stretching the point. Even a spectator yesterday surveyed the lie, the line and the sky for his second shot from light rough on the 15th, to cry out: "Gerra move out!"

In between all this meticulous preparatory manoeuvring, it should be said, Faldo played some excellent golf in an attempt to hold on to the trophy, with a fine two-under-par 69 for a two-round total of 140. Four under by the sixth, having started level, he dropped a shot at the 14th and

was again taken prisoner at the 17th.

The committee stopped short of disciplining Faldo or Ian Baker-Finch, another slow mover in a trio (completed by Fred Couples) which dropped 18 minutes behind the players in front and was advised about slow play after the 12th hole.

Faldo claimed later that they were held up by the crowd obstructing passage-ways between green and tee and by excessive movement among photographers following the round. This was only partially true.

There was a delay because of an errant television buggy at the ninth green, as I recall, but I followed the players a few yards behind through a dozen of the "gates" from green to tee and delays were minimal. Stewarding was much improved from the first day.

Faldo might do well to reflect on his own attitudes, and the extent to which they might be affecting his winning potential. Having done wonderfully well to remodel his swing and then to win the Open last year, the satisfaction of achievement should have brought equilibrium to his temperament.

Yet at the seventh yes-

terday, when his long-iron second shot was perfectly on line but ran 50 feet or more past the pin, he was remonstrating with himself and from then on was regularly fretting in a mood of subdued petulance: banging the ground, swishing his club in annoyance. "Fretting?" he queried later, as though unaware of the signs visible to others.

For two days his post-round Press conferences have had, though good-natured superficially, an undercurrent of slightly impatient sarcasm. It seems a pity when he has so much going for him: never mind the money.

A one-iron and a seven-iron to within 10 inches at the second gave him his first birdie. A glorious six-iron, dropping 30 inches from the pin in a difficult position just beyond a bunker at the fourth, brought the second birdie. A five-iron left him just off the green at the fifth and from over 40 feet he holed to go three under.

His drive to the left at the sixth had the flag behind a row of five bunkers. He cleverly flighted an eight-iron which ran 20 feet beyond to the back edge of the green; his first putt

stopped dead at the hole for a fourth birdie.

Then came the seventh and the first moment of irritation. His long downhill putt from the back of the green was fractionally overhit, scudded across the hole and stopped six feet past; and he missed the one back. That and the next six holes went to par, though he was fortunate at the 10th.

Blues skies had emerged through the hurrying clouds. Jumpers were shed. Bunkered for the first time on the left, his sand wedge lurched square across the green and on to the beard beyond; from where he holed the long putt.

With a bad lie in rough from the tee at the 14th, he played out square, was on the green well from there with a five-iron, but two-putted to three under.

At the 17th, he was, as on Thursday, in trouble to the left of the tee — "same shot, but a shorter bunker", he admitted. He played out only 60 yards, and hit a seven-iron into a bunker on the right of the green; from where he blasted out cleanly to four feet from the hole, but had lost another shot. A lovely run on to the final green cheered him and the huge home crowd.

Notable names likely to be swept aside

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

The new broom, as wielded by Christopher Cowdrey, will come out of the cupboard for the first time in suburban Surrey tonight. England's cricketers, current and prospective, wait with interest to see just how ruthlessly the incoming captain sweeps up the mess.

Two down with two to play, the first of them on the intimidating Headingley pitch, might not be thought the optimum circumstances for a new leader. The alternative theory, and one to which Cowdrey himself must subscribe, is that it is the ideal time to start.

Things can scarcely get worse and Cowdrey will find himself in an enviable strong position when he sits down this evening for his initial selection meeting. No one can blame him for what has gone before and his prognosis for a cure is unlikely to be rejected without trial.

Being the man he is, Cowdrey will not arrive at the conference demanding his own term or else. He is shrewd enough to acknowledge that his contact with the current Test series has been tenuous at best; he will not attempt to lay down the law. He will, however, go in with a clear idea of the sort of players he is seeking and the other four selectors, all of whom feel under immense pressure, are surely in a mood to listen.

Cowdrey will rightly be concerned by the morale of the side. He will have gathered, from talking to his friends in the team, that there is a dangerous, if subconscious, defeatism haunting some of the players who have spent so long in the flight path of the West Indian juggernaut.

He has two possible courses of action — either stay faithful to the battered old guard while trying to refresh their appetite or bring in a batch of players untainted by recent failures and unlikely to be bowed by the opposition.

If he opts for the latter, and wins the support of the panel, it is possible that only Gooch, Lamb and Dilley will survive from the eleven destroyed by an innings at Old Trafford. This, however, would be carnage on a virtually unprecedented scale and something slightly less spectacular can be anticipated when, tomorrow morning, a party of 12 is disclosed.

Those who can feel sickeningly sure of losing their places are Morson, Dowson and Embury.

Gatting has already opted out. Chiles may well be included but with little prospect of playing, while the futures of Gower, Capel and DeFreitas will all be carefully examined. Gower's case is perhaps the most intriguing. That he has the ability to score heavily against the best bowling in the world cannot be in doubt but the selectors are not sure that he retains the hunger or the mental resilience to do so.

Phrases such as "shellshocked" and "frame of mind" are being freely employed when his name is mentioned. It would be a hard decision to take, for he still has

an average of 44 for England and this would be his 100th Test, but if the prevailing air of resignation is to be destroyed, I am afraid he must go.

This leaves the committee to find three new batsmen in the top five. Worcestershire's Curtis is the logical choice in the open with Gooch and he has averaged around 50 for three seasons now and is capable of occupying the crease for long periods with an unflappable temperament.

Numbers three and five are more contentious but, given the need to be influenced by more than mere weight of runs, my nominations would be Paul Parker and Robin Smith.

Parker has taken on a new lease of life since being named Sussex captain this season. He is a positive, aggressive batsman, his significant scores including 89 against the West Indians and 117 against Cowdrey's Kent only a fortnight ago.

His one previous Test, at the Oval in 1981, was a day but he is a better batsman and a greatly improved one of the

Price moves into narrow lead as battle intensifies

By Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent

Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, emerged as the halfway leader of the 17th Open championship by producing a second round of 67 at Royal Lytham and St Annes yesterday.

Price, on a score of 137, five under par, is one shot ahead of Severiano Ballesteros. The Spaniard added a 71 to his opening 67, and he remains the favourite, although Nick Faldo, the defending champion (69), and Craig Stadler, of the United States (68), are only a further two shots adrift.

Since 1982, when at Royal Troon he dropped three shots in the last six holes, so handing the title to Tom Watson, Price has patiently waited for another opportunity in the Open. He has that now, and it may be something more of a coincidence that, like Faldo, Price works with the British-born instructor, David Leadbetter.

Price, however, has known Leadbetter for most of his professional career. They met in Zimbabwe, then known as Rhodesia, where Price moved as a child. What nationality is he? "I'm Zimbabwean," he said. "Well, I was born in South Africa, my mother came from England, my father from England. I hold a British passport and I now live in South Africa. So you can take your pick!"

Playing on the United States tour since 1983 has developed Price's game. He went to the qualifying school in the autumn of 1982, following a healthy if brief interlude on the European Tour, on the basis that he had proved at Troon that he possessed the ability to conquer America. He took little time in achieving that, winning the World Series of Golf in 1983.

Since then, apart from winning the Lancome Trophy in 1985, Price has mostly remained in the backwaters. Those close to him insist that he has the game with which to fulfil all his dreams. There is plenty of evidence to support the case, most notably his course record of 63 at Augusta in the US Masters in 1986. He has never forgotten that



THE OPEN

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	206	3	10	334	4
2	437	4	11	542	5
3	457	4	12	319	4
4	383	4	13	349	4
5	212	3	14	445	4
6	490	5	15	463	4
7	549	5	16	387	4
8	384	4	17	452	4
9	164	3	18	412	4
Out	3,302	35	In	3,555	36
Total yardage	6,857		Par	71	

BEST OF THE DAY

NICK PRICE (67)

Out: 3-4-4 4-3-3 4-3-3 = 31

In: 4-5-4 4-4-3 4-4-4 = 36

* Bold denotes scores better than par. Italic denotes scores worse than par.

loss at Troon. "I would be a fool to do so," he said. "I learned a golden lesson that week. I got ahead of myself — too confident. I had three birdies in succession from the 10th and I thought I couldn't lose. But it turned my life round. I was 25 years old and I realized I had the quality to

confidence. He is playing with the assurance of a man who believes he can win his third Open title.

He said: "So far I think I am beating the pressure. But, as you know, the pressure is very tough to beat. We will see over the next few days."

What galvanizes Ballesteros is a fair and demanding test. Royal Lytham has been all of that for the past few days, with only a handful of players bettering par.

Faldo put himself into such exalted company by gathering four birdies in five holes from the second. Stadler moved alongside him after rediscovering his form on the green after missing four times from two feet in the first round. Yesterday he had only to look at a putt to hole it. He made one of 40 feet for a two at the 12th and another of 20ft at the next.

Andy Bean, also of the United States, holed a chip shot at the 17th followed by a putt of 15 feet on the last green to complete an inward half of 32 — by two shots better than any other so far in the championship — for a 70 and a score of 141.

Amongst those players on 142, level par, is Sandy Lyle. The Masters champion was out in 33, with three birdies in six holes from the fourth, and he achieved something of a miracle with pars at each of the nine holes on the inward half. His score of 69 took him alongside Bob Tway and Fred Couples.

The Open on TV

SATURDAY: BBC1: Grandstand 12.30-6.45 p.m. BBC2: 11.45 p.m.-12.25 a.m. Highlights.

SUNDAY: BBC2: Sunday Grandstand 1.30-6.50 p.m. Final round, 9.15-10 p.m. Highlights.

WEATHER: Generally unsettled, bright and sunny periods, with outbreaks of rain spreading from the west. Wind light to moderate. Temperature 16 to 18°C. Outlook for Sunday: remaining unsettled.

win. If, when I am 50 years old, I have not won the Open, I might kick myself."

Price won many friends for the sporting manner in which he accepted defeat. He is doing so again this week, for he is a personable young man with an admirably jovial outlook on the course. He launched his challenge yesterday with the assistance of an eagle three at the sixth, where he holed from 35 feet after having reached the green with a seven-iron. Thereafter he gathered three birdies, against one bogey, and he kept his score intact on the last green by holing from 20 feet.

There could be no greater examination for Price than to have Ballesteros on his heels. The Spaniard is so relaxed that neither the size of the crowd or the strength of the wind, which once again offered its protection to the course, could undermine his



Price of fame: the Open leader watching his star soar yesterday (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Hopes grow for Tyson fight

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Frank Bruno's bout with Mike Tyson, which has been in doubt because of a dispute between Tyson and his manager, Bill Cayton, could still go ahead at Wembley on September 3, according to Michael Winston, the world heavyweight champion's lawyer.

Winston, who had been trying to reach a settlement in the dispute, said yesterday that the bout would go on despite Tyson trying to break the contract with Cayton, who arranged the Wembley defence. "We are still negotiating but we have recommended that the fight goes on," Winston said.

The champion's close friend and confidant, Jose Torres, the former world light-heavyweight champion, also believed the bout would go on.

Torres said yesterday from New York: "Tyson wants to fight Bruno very much and as all parties are agreed on it, I think the fight will go ahead. I know Winston is leaning towards a settlement. They could put the money for the fight in ESCROW."

Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, remained cautious. "It sounds like good news," he said. "But I wish it had come

from Tyson's lips. Until the fight is definite, I can't bring over sparring partners from America."

Micky Duff, the promoter of the Wembley show, said: "I've heard nothing definite yet, but there are a lot of optimistic noises."

William Hill, the bookmaker, is offering 8-1 against Frank Bruno beating Mike Tyson when they meet at Wembley in September — but it is refusing to accept bets for Tyson to win the fight outright. Hill is, however, offering 8-1 against Tyson winning the fight in the first round.

Most timely reminder

Bill Athey, a forgotten man of English Test cricket, chose the perfect day to announce that he is still around (Alan Lee writes).

On the eve of the selection meeting for next week's critical fourth Test at Headingley, Athey struck a brave, unflinching 168 at Bristol yet still finished on the losing side as Northamptonshire were matched victory by one run with one ball to spare in a nerve-rattling finish.

Athey, now just 62, runs short of 1,000 for the season, has not played Test cricket this summer, following a mis-

erable winter of touring with England.

Chasing 350 in 98 overs Gloucestershire were caught at 213 for 3, then agonisingly snuck at 241 for 7. But Athey, the 30-year-old Yorkshireman, showed the tailenders closing stand, and 15 runs were needed from the last over.

He struck 12 of them from four balls but last man Terry Alderman was run out attempting the run which would have brought the scores level.

More cricket, page 38

Gray sacked as Welsh put their faith in Ryan

By Owen Jenkins

The Welsh Rugby Union last night dismissed its coach, Tony Gray, and appointed John Ryan for the next three years. Ryan will therefore carry Wales through to the 1991 World Cup. But before then he will face what could be his severest test — the New Zealand visit to Wales in the autumn of 1989.

Although Ryan does not coach any side at the moment, the Welsh Rugby Union secretary, Ray Williams, said: "John Ryan is a very respected coach with significant achievements with Cardiff and Newport."

Tony Gray has paid the penalty for Wales' failure in their New Zealand tour. He had coached Wales for the past 31 months and had stated his desire to carry on in the

job. He faced opposition from eight other candidates including Ryan. All those names put forward are staff coaches — a criteria for the post.

Following the disastrous New Zealand tour there were calls for Gray to resign. In the 24 internationals under his control, Wales won 15 and lost 9. Three of those defeats came since the Triple Crown victory in Dublin. Rod Morgan, Wales' tour manager, publicly supported Gray after the tour.

Morgan will still sit on the selection committee which will show two new faces from last year: Ryan replaces Gray, with the former Wales and Pontypool captain Jeff Gwynne replacing Derek Quantel. David Richards and Rhys Williams will remain.

Arsenal let Sansom go

The Arsenal board yesterday "reluctantly" agreed to comply with the request of Kenny Sansom, their England international left back, to be placed on the transfer list with a year of his contract still to run.

Sansom, aged 29, submitted a written transfer request last week after an unhappy season in which he lost first the captaincy and then, temporarily, his place in the side. He joined Arsenal from Crystal Palace for £800,000 in 1980.

Indianapolis (Reuters) — Carl Lewis ran the fastest 100 metres of the year and equalled the seventh fastest of all time yesterday when he ran 9.96 seconds in a preliminary round of the US Olympic trials here yesterday.

Guatemala in Paris (AFP) —

Guatemala will be replaced by Mexico, who have been banned for two years from all international footballing over-age players in a youth World Cup qualifying tournament, in the Olympic football competition.

Hardy travels

The European Boxing Union have ruled that Billy Hardy, the British bantamweight champion, must travel to Italy, probably in late October, to take on Vincenzo Bellocchio for the European championship title.

Sheffield plan

A model of Sheffield's proposed complex for the 1991 World Summer Games was unveiled yesterday. It will cost £26 million and include Britain's first indoor cycle racing arena and a 15,000-seat indoor events hall.

Berlin boycott

Berlin (AP) — East Germany will boycott the Mobil Grand Prix track and field finals in West Berlin next month because of a dispute over Wolfgang Schmidt, a former world record holder, who was allowed to leave East Germany last year and later included by West Germany at a meeting against their neighbours in Düsseldorf.

Fast Lewis

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Sansom: can leave Highbury

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